Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-023
Thursday
4 February 1988

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CONTENTS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Batenin Urges Continuity in Arms Dialogue 1
'Unprecedentedly Strict, Open' Test Verification *[PRAVDA 1 Feb]* 1
Palenykh: Serious Tasks Ahead 2
Bogachev on Arms Figures Discrepancies 2

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Further on Gerasimov, Zagladin News Conference *[TRUD 3 Feb]* 3
West Blamed for RSA, Israeli Nuclear Capability *[Tyurkin in PRAVDA 23 Jan]* 3
Shevardnadze Remarks on Spanish Bases Denied 4
Capitalism, Disarmament Face 'Keen Struggle' *[PRAVDA 27 Jan]* 4
General Explains 'Rational Sufficiency' 6
Venice Symposium on CSCE Issues Opens 7
Human Rights Commission Chairman on Activities 8

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

Contra Aid Defeat in Line With World Opinion 9
Reagan Authorizes Chemical Bomb Production 9
Decision Called 'Regrettable' 9
Yazov-Carlucci Meeting Viewed With 'Hope' 9
USIA Proposal: Valuable Initiative, Dubious Aims 10
Shultz Address Congress on Several Issues 10
Washington Talks Illustrate Complexity of Issues *[IZVESTIYA 2 Feb]* 11
Kurdyumov Calls Veto on Israel 'Shameful' *[PRAVDA 3 Feb]* 12
Vasilyev on 'Double Standard' *[PRAVDA 3 Feb]* 12

China

Zhao Ziyang Welcomes Improved Relations 12
Xinjiang Border Trade Agreement Signed 13
Border Trade Viewed 13
Jilin Trade Delegation Arrives in Nakhodka 13
USSR Machine Tool Delegation Arrives 27 Jan 13
Ivanov on USSR-PRC 'High-Level Meeting' 14
U.S. Considers PRC 'Hostile Country' 15

Northeast Asia

U.S. 'Spy Action' Over DPRK Reported 15
Anniversary of U.S. Nuclear Arms in Korea Noted *[PRAVDA 30 Jan]* 15
Soviet-Japanese Economic Talks End in Tokyo 16
Train Crossing USSR Carried Spy Equipment *[IZVESTIYA 23 Jan]* 16

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Thais 'Escalating' Armed Conflict with Laos 16
'Shocking' Sihanouk Resignation Noted *[Korolev]* 17
Cambodia's Chea Sim Hails INF Treaty 17

Near East & South Asia

Proposed Afghan Government-in-Exile Examined 18
Afghan Withdrawal 'Within 2 Months' Possible *[Kuwait KUNA]* 19
Iraq's Husayn Meets Supreme Soviet Delegation 19
Iranian Envoy Received by Dobrynin *[Tehran IRNA]* 19
Iranian's Remarks on Afghanistan Assailed 19
India's Menon Meets with Shevardnadze 20
Meets with Dobrynin 20
Morocco Reportedly Offers Facilities for F-16's 20
U.S. Warships Arrive in Egypt, 'Concern' Voiced 21
More On Saudi Foreign Minister's Moscow Talks *[PRAVDA 31 Jan]* 21
Official Denies Saudi Ties Soon To Be Resumed *[Abu Dhabi WAM]* 21
Life in Khowst 'Noticeably Improved' 22
Afghan Gas Industry Cooperation Protocol Signed 22
Moscow Publishes Mideast Political Directory *[Kuwait KUNA]* 22

Sub-Saharan Africa

Ministry Denies Giving Angola Chemical Weapons 23
Senegalese Officials Receive Ryuytel Delegation 23
Ugandan Cooperatives Delegation Visits Moscow *[Kampala]* 23

East Europe

Jakes Replaces Husak as National Front Chairman 24
FRG 'Hostile Campaign' Against GDR Viewed *[Borisov, Korinenko]* 24
Gwiazda on Reforms, 'Decisive' USSR Support 25
Polish Politburo Cites Important Tasks *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 29 Jan]* 26
U.S. Agency Overstates Polish Defense Budget *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]* 26
No Limit to 'Antisocialist' Interference 26

West Europe

Gorbachev Sends Message to Maltese Peace Group 27
Bavaria's Strauss Visit to Africa Assailed 27
Swedish Riksdag on INF Treaty, Baltic Agreement 28
Cooperation Agreement Signed With British Airways 28
Briefs 29
Legal Cooperation with Canada 29

Latin America & Caribbean

U.S. Conducts 'Smear Campaign' Against Noriega 29
Haitian People 'Repudiate' Election, Regime *[Kamorin in IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 29
Manigat Press Conference Reported 30
Ortega Interview With Italian Papers Cited 30
Nicaragua Institutes Energy Saving Measures 30

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

CC Plenum Reportedly to Meet 18-19 Feb *[KYODO]* 32
More on Nuclear Accident False Alarm 32
IAEA: Accident Reports False *[Mainz ZDF TV]* 32
IAEA Denies Responsibility *[Vienna ORF]* 32
Gremitskikh: Report 'Fabricated' *[Prague CTK]* 32
Moscow Comments on Reports 32
Swedish Report on Accident *[cross-reference]* 33
Comparison of Party Resolution on Kiev Gorkom 33

Gromyko Chairs Commission on Crimean Tatars 33
Three Million To Lose Jobs By 1990 34
Chazov Interviewed on AIDS Measures *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 29 Jan]* 34
Doctor Rebuts Charges of Psychiatric Abuse *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 Jan]* 35
Antipollution Measures in Bashkir ASSR Detailed *[PRAVDA 26 Jan]* 35
Kazakh Central Committee Plenum Held *[PRAVDA 2 Feb]* 36
Ukraine Official Instructs Procurators *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 20 Jan]* 38
Film Shows Lithuanian Priest as 'Extremist' 39
Lithuanians Protest U.S. Congress' 'Interfering' 39
MVD Officer on National Relations Among Troops *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Feb]* 39
Militia Official Reviews Crime Statistics 41
Killer Executed; 12 Defendants 'Rehabilitated' 42
Moscow Weekly Follows Up Odessa Malyshev Case *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 3 Feb]* 42
Scene of Yaroslavl Train Crash Described *[IZVESTIYA 3 Feb]* 43
Clean-Up Progress Updated 45
Attempts To 'Silence' Newspapers Decried *[Bodnaruk in IZVESTIYA 31 Jan]* 45
'Socialist Clubs' Leader Interviewed *[London NEW STATESMAN 29 Jan]* 46
Hopes for Ukrainian Literature*[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 26 Jan]* 50
KOMMUNIST Publishes Bukharin 1929 Report *[PRAVDA 27 Jan]* 50
Publications Examine 1953 Doctors' Plot *[TANJUG]* 51
Moscow TV Premiers Documentary on Kirov 51

Economic

Management Consultation Center Opens in Riga 52

Scientific

Research Satellite 'Cosmos-1916' Launched 53
Experiments Aboard 'Mir' Complex Reported 53
Issue of Cosmonaut's Health Discussed 53
Leonov Refutes 'Canard' *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 3 Feb]* 53
Academician's Remarks 54
Interview With Cosmonaut *[IZVESTIYA 3 Feb]* 54
1-Year Space Missions Contemplated 56
Soviet Arctic Stratosphere Experiment Begins *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 2 Feb]* 56
Marchuk Discusses Scientific Progress *[Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO 26 Jan]* 57
Zaykov, Other Leaders Attend Scientific Congress 58

Batenin Urges Continuity in Arms Dialogue

LD031504 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—A TASS diplomatic correspondent reports:

"It is necessary to ensure the continuity of the process of nuclear arms reduction and of disarmament," military expert of the CPSU Central Committee Geliy Batenin told a TASS diplomatic correspondent today.

Commenting on reports that appeared in the west that the treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive arms is, allegedly, not an indispensable condition for the subsequent Soviet-American summit, the military expert said: "One can understand the concern of western politicians over regional problems, or, for instance, over the situation in human rights. Much attention is paid to these matters also in the USSR. But we proceed from the view that progress on the road to nuclear missile disarmament will be promoting the solution of many regional and humanitarian problems".

It is known that some leaders in the West believe that there should be a pause and that the working out of the treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive arms should not be sped up. Meanwhile it is held in Moscow that there is a need for continuity of the Soviet-American dialogue on disarmament problems," the Soviet military expert holds. [quotation mark as received]

'Unprecedentedly Strict, Open' Test Verification

PM031917 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1,5

[Report by PRAVDA special correspondent V. Gan: "Making A Contribution. Soviet Experts At The Nevada Test Site"]

[Text] Las Vegas (Nevada), 31 Jan—This part of Nevada is probably known all over the world. Rarely a month passes without its appearing on the television screen. Around 110 km from here lies the U.S. nuclear test center on a site of 1,350 square miles, where they test new warheads and check on the reliability of warheads that are already in service. Whenever (and, according to official U.S. Administration data, there are on average 15 occasions a year) the thousands of nuclear "Hiroshimas" are detonated in the center's underground tunnels, houses shake and chandeliers tremble in the "gambling capital of the world," as Las Vegas is known. And although it hardly affects the work of the local casinos, the inhabitants of the city are under constant stress, living next to unimaginably destructive forces which, if they got out of hand, would leave behind not a trace of the city.

"Where are you from? From Russia? With the delegation that has come to the test site?" I was asked by garrulous cab drivers who ferry people to the local section of the U.S. Energy Department, which shares responsibility with the Pentagon for creating the nuclear monsters (it supplies the warheads and the military departments supply the delivery vehicles).

Everyone seemed to have heard of the arrival of the Soviet delegation and the questions confirmed this, illustrating people's keen interest in a problem that on the face of it has no connection with the constant buzzing and rattling of gambling machines.

The event of those 5 days—25 through 30 January—certainly was out of the ordinary. For the first time in the history of the nuclear era 20 Soviet experts, headed by I. Palenykh, leader of the USSR delegation at the Geneva full-scale talks on nuclear tests, were visiting the Nevada test site, following a similar visit a week earlier by a U.S. delegation which had acquainted itself with our test center near Semipalatinsk. Although the exchange of visits was long overdue, it was the radical breakthrough in the solution of the question of eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles that helped to make this step possible. It seems that the unprecedentedly strict and open verification [proverka] system incorporated in the treaty will also help both sides surmount a kind of psychological barrier in other key areas of the arms control problem. Nuclear tests are certainly one of them, perhaps even the leading one, since it is they that serve as the generator of more and more new arms, causing the insane arms race to spiral toward the brink of catastrophe.

Everyone is aware, of course, that for many years now the test ban talks have been effectively at a standstill, and not through the fault of the Soviet side. The symptoms of stagnation are present—the United States has not gotten round to ratifying the 1974 treaty on limiting underground nuclear weapon tests and the 1976 treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

The exchange of visits would appear to signal some movement. Without exaggerating its significance, one could talk of definite improvements in the approach to this emotionally charged issue.

For entirely understandable reasons, information on the USSR delegation's visit was sparse, since it was concerned with rather delicate matters. But my fellow U.S. journalists' dissatisfaction was dispelled today. Having acquainted itself with the organization of work at the test site and with nuclear test preparations, the Soviet delegation, in conjunction with the U.S. hosts, arranged a press conference.

I. Palenykh and U.S. delegation head R. Barker announced that they will now be making preparations for a joint experiment on monitoring [kontrol] the yield of nuclear tests. The aim of the experiment is to reach an agreement on improving the verification [proverka] measures required for the ratification of Soviet-American treaties. The Soviet and U.S. experts now have a better understanding of the practical problems involved

in carrying out their task. As Palenykh said, the experiment will help ascertain the monitoring [kontrol] methods and decide on the combination required for verifying [proverka] observance of treaties. The timeframe for the experiment will be decided on at the talks in Geneva and, according to Barker, optimists regard early May as the likely time.

The speakers noted that they are prompted by a desire to make progress on the path of limiting nuclear tests qualitatively and quantitatively. The sides regard the complete cessation of nuclear explosions as the ultimate goal. Obviously this cannot be achieved overnight, but where there is the desire to do it, the political will, no obstacle is insuperable. In this sense, what the exchange participants see as a prevailing atmosphere of constructiveness and cooperation could be an example worthy of imitation.

...The cab driver, Christopher Murphy by name, asked me: "Well, did you agree?" I replied: "By and large, yes, but time will tell..." "I don't know about you, but I could do without a war. Explosions too," Murphy said, turning into the hotel.

Same here, Christopher.

Palenykh: Serious Tasks Ahead

LD041454 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1345 GMT 4 Feb 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] As has already been reported, a group of Soviet specialists visited the U.S. nuclear testing range in Nevada at the end of January.

[Begin recording] [Yu. M. Palenykh, leader of the USSR delegation at the talks in Geneva, identified by screen caption] This visit was a return trip after the U.S. representatives' tour of the Semipalatinsk testing range in the first half of January of this year.

We showed Semipalatinsk to the U.S. specialists. They showed us here the technology and the working methods we will need to apply during the implementation of the joint verification experiment. We are to conduct the experiment itself somewhere in the course of the first half of this year. This was stipulated in the accord reached between USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. We are facing a serious task. Both sides are to put in some work, to prepare for this.

The things we have acquainted ourselves with here, the materials we received, and the Americans we met will be the basis for the continuation of our talks. The second round of full-scale talks on questions of the cessation of nuclear weapons tests will resume on 15 February in Geneva. So we, both delegations, will be traveling to these talks, armed with knowledge about the conditions in which the experiment will be conducted. [end recording]

Bogachev on Arms Figures Discrepancies

LD031423 Moscow TASS in English 1329 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The Pentagon clearly claims it is capable of counting Soviet missiles from a distance of several thousand kilometres with a greater accuracy than its own nuclear-missile weapons on U.S. territory.

Only recently the American side admitted at the talks in Geneva that in the memorandum to the signed INF treaty the U.S. military leadership had stated a smaller number of its Pershing missiles subject to elimination under the agreement than in reality because the military had "forgotten" about the storages where they were kept. Now a Pentagon spokesman has stated with reference to data of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency that the Soviet Union supposedly has at least 160 more SS-20 missiles than it was stated in the memorandum on initial data which was signed in Washington.

In connection with these insinuations by the Pentagon a representative of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces told the TASS correspondent the following: "We vouch for every figure submitted to the United States at the talks. All the Soviet data was thoroughly checked right down to a single missile".

Incidentally, Paul Nitze, the U.S. President's special advisor on arms controls matters, told journalists that the issue in this case was not signs of violations but only certain intelligence evaluations by American experts and that he saw no cause for concern.

The point, indeed, is not the "forgetfulness" of the American military and not the differences in the American "assessments" of the number of Soviet intermediate-range missiles.

The matter is that in the United States there are powerful forces which clearly do not like the INF treaty that was signed in Washington. They do not conceal their hopes to torpedo the process of this treaty's ratification in the Senate not only by way of "killer amendments" but also by way of a campaign to sow mistrust in the Soviet Union. Now some people in the Pentagon have joined this unseemly campaign and timed the insinuations about the "discrepancy of data" on the number of missiles to coincide with the opening of the treaty's discussion in the U.S. Senate.

Further on Gerasimov, Zagladin News Conference

PM031431 Moscow TRUD in Russian 3 Feb 88 p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting with Journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] "We regard the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles as a very important document and will work to ensure it is approved, ratified and then subsequently fully implemented, in all its parts," V.V. Zagladin, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union Foreign Affairs Commission, stated at a 2 February briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center.

Essentially, he remarked, the process leading to the ratification of the treaty has already begun. The USSR Council of Ministers, having examined the treaty, has passed it on to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for examination. The Presidium submitted the treaty to the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities' Foreign Affairs Commissions. A joint session of the commissions will be held at the beginning of next week. At the moment the deputies belonging to those commissions are studying these documents.

V.V. Zagladin pointed out that the removal of the Soviet missiles from the GDR and the CSSR will be carried out before the treaty goes into effect. This is a goodwill gesture on the part of the USSR, the GDR, and the CSSR, which want by this action to confirm their undoubted seriousness vis-a-vis the treaty and their complete determination to fully implement all its conditions.

During their visit to Nevada 25-30 January, Soviet specialists were shown how work is organized and done at the U.S. nuclear test range, including various stages of the preparation for and conduct of tests, I.M. Palenykh, leader of the Soviet specialists' delegation, said. The U.S. side demonstrated its technology and equipment. Soviet and U.S. specialists had a comprehensive discussion of hydrodynamic and seismic methods of measuring the yield of nuclear explosions.

An accord on reciprocal visits to the Semipalatinsk and Nevada test ranges was reached within the framework of the talks between the two states' leaders in Washington last December. The USSR and the United States agreed to conduct a joint experiment in the very near future to elaborate improved measures for verifying the 1974 Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests and the 1976 Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, which have still not been ratified because the U.S. side believes the verification on them to be inadequate.

The information and materials obtained by the Soviet delegation during the visit to Nevada are analogous to those obtained by the U.S. specialists during their visit to Semipalatinsk.

It is important to ensure the consistent progress of the multilateral process of disarmament in all spheres, G.I. Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, stated in connection with the routine session of the Disarmament Conference, which has begun in Geneva. The signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles marked the beginning of real nuclear disarmament. A significant independent role in advancing the disarmament process is played by the Disarmament Conference, which is designed to be a forum for the internationalization of the efforts aimed at moving toward a world free of nuclear weapons and violence. Among the items on the session's agenda, the question of banning chemical weapons is most urgent.

The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman went on to say that the VESTNIK MID SSSR is of use not only to diplomats but also journalists. However, we do not want this publication to harm us, its publishers, and thus would ask people not to try to read between the lines. Thus G.I. Gerasimov commented on a rejoinder by the observer of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Nilan Vest [name as published] to a speech by USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze contained in the VESTNIK. That rejoinder, later broadcast by Voice of America, claimed that the Soviet leadership does not harbor any hopes of reviving its economy by means of cooperation with the socialist countries.

I have looked at that speech, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed, and I found nothing which would even approximately justify the U.S. newspaper's comment. In fact the minister pointed out that the Soviet Union continues to give priority to the CEMA members in its foreign economic ties.

BBC Radio went even further in its juggling of the facts. It claimed that during the visit to Spain E.A. Shevardnadze began dictating defense policy to NATO's European members. In fact he called for joint efforts to seek ways to further reduce armaments in Europe and to strengthen confidence.

There is bewilderment in the Soviet Union at the recent comment by Britain's Defense Secretary George Younger to the effect that there are no signs of the USSR's readiness to take any steps to reduce chemical weapons production, the information administration chief stated. However as long ago as 10 April 1987 the Soviet Union announced the termination of chemical weapons production.

Answers were given to journalists' quesions.

West Blamed for RSA, Israeli Nuclear Capability

PM040935 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 88 Second Edition p 1

[Own correspondent Vladimir Tyurkin report under the rubric "Correspondent Comments": "Africa in Their Clutches"]

[Text] Luanda—This howitzer has no equal in Africa. Its range is longer than most at 40km. The G-5 is a wonder of military technology. The 155mm rocket-propelled,

electronically guided shell possesses huge strike power. Its targeting accuracy is within a few meters.

These monsters are part of South African Army weaponry and are operated in southern Angola.

They fire high-explosive and chemical projectiles. There is something even worse kept at South African Army depots.

A book just published in London by well-known Israeli scientist B. Beyt-Hallami claims that the nuclear flash registered by a U.S. satellite in 1979 on the South African coastline was produced by a shell "almost certainly" fired from a 155mm gun.

The professor thinks this nuclear ammunition is the fruit of joint work by South Africa and Israel, which have concluded a corresponding secret pact. Under this pact South Africa is providing the enriched uranium and the test ranges. Israel is providing the technology. We should add—Western technology.

There is no hiding the truth. As was shown by the sensational trial of Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli nuclear scientist who told the world about Israel's nuclear preparations, they are going about it seriously and on a grand scale.

Characteristically, the military potential of both aggressor states today is not limited to howitzers but enables them to "cover" the whole of Africa. They call Uganda the boundary. In 1986 South Africa obtained from Israel, in contravention of international sanctions, two Boeing tankers which enable its combat aircraft to reach right up to the equator. According to specialist assessments, all the countries south of the equator, including Uganda, are within their range.

Israel can also "reach" Uganda, but from the north. It showed this several years ago in the airborne "raid on Entebbe," which acquired scandalous notoriety, aimed at freeing Israeli hostages from the Ugandan capital's airport.

In reality South Africa and Israel have Africa in their nuclear clutches, having both the ammunition and the means of delivery. We add that, thanks to cooperation with Israel, South Africa has: 1. developed the "Scorpion" missile for its warships; 2. improved its existing French Mirage-3 fighter, now in service, by fitting it with Israeli electronics; 3. constructed missile cutters ; and 4. begun improving its submarines.

Who is responsible for this development of events? The Western powers, whose policy of tolerance of and direct complicity with both aggressors has led to a situation in which the nuclear threat in Africa is becoming increasingly tangible.

Shevardnadze Remarks on Spanish Bases Denied

LD032001 Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] A spokesman for the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied statements by the BBC to the effect that during his visit to Spain Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze tried to influence this country's defense policy and that in particular he urged the elimination of the U.S. bases. The problem fo the bases was not even broached during the negotiations in Spain, said the Soviet foreign ministry representative.

Capitalism, Disarmament Face 'Keen Struggle'

PM031141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 88 First Edition p 4

[Yu. Krasin article: "Life Without Militarism? Can Capitalism Adapt to a Nonnuclear World"]

[Text] The quite tangible threat of nuclear self-destruction is prompting the world community to seek real ways of saving civilization and ensuring mankind's survival. The resolution of this priority task for all mankind—a vitally important task for all countries, peoples, classes, and social groups—requires new political thinking. In the modern integrated, contradictory world the socialist countries will have to build a reliable international security system along with the capitalist countries.

Naturally, this presents Marxist thinking with a number of complex theoretical questions. The most important of these were formulated in M.S. Gorbachev's report at the ceremonial session devoted to the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. The very future of the building of a stable and consciously regulated world free from confrontation and the threat of nuclear nightmares depends on the nature of the answers to these questions.

Is such a world possible while capitalism exists? After all, we need to reject strong-arm policies and ensure the demilitarization of society and disarmament, which run counter to the nature of imperialism. If we allow that the existing contradiction is insoluble it must be recognized that disarmament and a nonnuclear and nonviolent world are just a beautiful utopia.

The solution to this complex dilemma must clearly be sought in the features of the functioning of capitalism in the modern, integrated, interdependent world—features which cannot fail to influence the laws of capitalist development.

Certain radical left-wing theorists claim that modern capitalism is impossible without a growing military economy. So what are we to do—recognize the inevitability of the arms race and confrontation in the world arena, since the militarization of the economy, from this

point of view, is an inalienable property and attribute of capitalism? Is that why it is impossible to end the arms race and move to disarmament as long as the capitalist system exists?

One is struck by the politically damaging nature of such a stance. It is profoundly pessimistic, since it essentially casts doubt on the very possibility of peaceful coexistence between opposing social systems, and, consequently, on the achievement of a stable peace. Furthermore, this stance tacitly justifies the adventurist policy of "nudging on" the revolutionary process, seeing the elimination of capitalism as the only chance of saving mankind from nuclear death. One cannot fail to see that this is a sectarian stance, since it excludes from the struggle for peace broad sections of society [shirokiye obshchestvennyye sloi] that do not share socialist ideals.

The main thing, however, is that the radical left-wing theorists' claims are groundless. They see capitalism in the abstract, in some kind of social vacuum, extracting it from the system of actual links with the international environment of the integrated world in which it is absorbed. Yet this environment is having an increasing impact on capitalism right up to modifying certain laws of its development and altering the forms in which these laws manifest themselves. Thanks to this, even the aggressive tendencies inherent in imperialism can be, if not entirely suppressed, at least restricted and curbed.

In our era, as before, imperialism has demonstrated the inherently expansionist aspirations which incite it to interfere in other countries' internal affairs. Class enmity regarding the world revolutionary process and socialism bursts through in the attempts to switch ideological contradictions to interstate relations.

But powerful factors opposing imperialism operate within our interrelated human society which is becoming internationalized. These include the peace-making energy of real socialism, which will grow as its internal potential and the acceleration of its socioeconomic development are revealed. The working class and their professional and political organizations are playing an increasingly active role in the struggle for peace. The prestige of the Nonaligned Movement is growing and the pressure exerted by mass antiwar movements is increasing. Those are the components of the potential for peace—a potential which opposes the unprecedented development of imperialism's militarist tendencies, and forces it to adapt to the situation, to maneuver, to compromise, and to come to agreements.

One other fact is of considerable importance. The very representatives of the dominant class in the capitalist countries, including among ruling circles, cannot avoid being influenced by the profound processes whereby public opinion is becoming aware of the shared nature of the fate of the human race in the nuclear age.

The monopoly bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries is by no means homogeneous. In the fist few years after the victory of the revolution Lenin stated that a "pacifist camp of the international bourgeoisie" also exists alongside the camp of the "crude bourgeois, aggressive bourgeois, and reactionary bourgeois" and that in our foreign policy "we fully rely on the peaceful sentiments not only of workers and peasants...but also of a huge proportion of sensible representatives of the bourgeoisie and their governments."

The circumstances noted by Lenin have intensified in the nuclear and space age under the influence of the natural sense of self-preservation inherent in the bourgeoisie. Regarding international policy this sphere divides into two parties: the "party of war" and the "party of peace." Both adopt united class positions and reject socialism as an ideology and social system. But one of them pursues a line of confrontation with the socialist countries. Whereas the other "party," taking account of the realities of the nuclear and space age, has a preference for peaceful and predominantly political and ideological methods of struggle, advocating steps toward disarmament and a stable peace.

Of course, economic class interests, the desire for military superiority over the socialist countries, high military profits, and the wish to dictate their will to the peoples infuse the aggressive policy of well-known circles in the United States and the NATO countries. At the same time they also sense how disastrous a nuclear war would be. The atmosphere of the rejection of militarism by public opinion, the growing sympathy for Soviet peace initiatives, and military-political parity are having a sobering effect on the worst hotheads in the West. This contradiction in the conscience and behavior of ruling circles in the leading NATO countries largely explains the wavering between the innately imperialist policy of strong-arm pressure and the policy of talks and sensible compromise that accords with the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Nor should there be any illusions about the positions of the sober-minded section of the bourgeoisie. It too is moved by class interests, but strives to pursue a self-preservation strategy for the capitalist system which accords with current realities. There is a clearer and clearer realization that the unchecked escalation in means of destruction bodes ill for any system.

A considerable section of the bourgeoisie, looking to adapt capitalism to the new circumstances by implementing partial reforms, is rightly concerned that the expedited arms race together with the unending buildup in military budgets will lead to a dismantling of the "social balance" policy. This could result in serious upheavals. Similar sentiments are particularly strong among Western European business circles. They are gradually coming round to the belief that the growing arms race burden is a time bomb under bourgeois reformism.

The realities of the nuclear and space age, shifts in the correlation of forces in the world arena, the international impulses generated by socialism, the growing role of the public in international affairs, the unequal position of the developing countries, and their neocolonial exploitation are factors that force the apologists of capitalism to adapt for the sake of their own survival to the atmosphere defined by mankind's desire to prevent the demise of civilization.

The following question, however, is natural: Can a capitalist society in principle function and develop in a nonnuclear demilitarizing world? The answer to that difficult question involves elaborating upon the opportunities for the reconversion of military production, and, consequently, for major steps along the road to disarmament. There are a number of arguments in favor of a positive answer. Although imperialism is creating grounds for the growth of militarism, militarism is, nonetheless, not one of the main or indispensable signs of imperialism. The military-industrial complex is by no means synonymous with monopoly capitalism. Even in the United States, where it has grown to gigantic proportions, it only accounts directly for one-tenth of the country's 500 largest corporations. Even the majority of these have a considerable presence in civilian production. This provides grounds for thinking that the growth in the military-industrial complex is by no means an irreversible process.

The possibility of a capitalist economy existing and developing rapidly without being militarized is virtually proved by the experience of Finland, Austria, and a number of other countries. People could, of course, object that these are examples of small countries. But there is also another example that concerns major states. Namely, the "economic miracle" of Japan, the FRG, and Italy. True, they then turned toward militarization. Nonetheless, there was in practice a period of rapid development of a modern capitalist economy with minimal military spending.

The negative influence of militarization on the capitalist economy is increasingly clear. The example of the United States itself, where the growth in military spending has led to the unprecedented budget deficit and a rapid growth in state debt, is very revealing. All this results in the domestic economic instability visible in the sharp falls in share prices, the depreciation of the dollar, and so forth.

It by no means follows from the above that the ringleaders of big-time capitalism will willingly agree to the demilitarization of the economy. As long as opposite tendencies prevail there will be a keen struggle against the influential forces of the military-industrial complex for a "peace economy." During this struggle the ruling class will have to choose. But it is important that the very possibility of military production being reconverted does exist. "We are convinced, and science confirms it," M.S. Gorbachev stressed," that with the present level of technology and production organization the reconversion and demilitarization of an economy is possible. At the same time it would also be a choice in favor of peace."

The dead end into which the belligerent policy of the monopoly bourgeoisie's ruling circles is headed is obvious. That is why many Western ideologists and politicians are looking elsewhere. They are increasingly often leaning toward a constructive dialogue and sensible compromise under the conditions of the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. The recent signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty to eliminate two classes of missile is evidence of these new trends.

The possibility of moving toward disarmament has for all intents and purposes been reaffirmed. But this is just the first step on a long, hard road. A long, hard struggle against militarism and the inertia of strong-arm thinking and strong-arm policies lies ahead. The results will depend on the scale of the struggle, the coordination of the efforts of the forces participating in it, and the activeness of the antiwar movements opposing imperialism's military-industrial complex and its placemen. These profound currents in present-day history maintain the hope that there will be a transition to a secure world and the creation of a new world economic and political order based on the principles of trust, universal security, nonviolence, and consideration for the interests of all countries and peoples.

The practical implementation of the principles of the new thinking is not an illusion but a realistic prospect that inspires optimism. Despite the terrible dangers acting as a warning to our civilization at the end of the century, it illuminates the unending line of social progress, because it reflects the profound need—common to all mankind—for survival.

General Explains 'Rational Sufficiency'

OW021015 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 1 Feb 88

[From the "Peace and Disarmament" program]

[Text] Today we will discuss what is called the concept of rational sufficiency. As is known, this concept concerns the question of armaments and is an integral part of the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact nations. Radio Moscow commentator Yelena Pavlova interviewed Maj Gen Mikhail (Yashikov), a doctor of philosophy, on various aspects of the concept. The following is the announcer-read dialogue between them in that interview.

[Question] [Unidentified announcer] What is the objective of this concept?

[Answer] [Second unidentified announcer] The rational sufficiency concept is aimed at reducing levels of military confrontation on a reciprocal basis. According to this concept, it is not necessary for different nations to develop their armaments in exactly the same way. In

other words, it is not necessary for a country to stockpile the same quantities of weapons as its potential enemy. What is needed are weapons with which to inflict sufficient losses to contain the aggressor forces—that is, the capability to deal sufficient retaliatory blows to repel attacks, which may not mean the same level of armament. If a country is capable of a retaliatory strike of that level, it can prevent enemy attacks. I would like to note one more thing, and it is that this concept is based on the conviction that today, security cannot be guaranteed exclusively by military means, but only by a combination of all available means, including political, economic, ideological, diplomatic, and military venues.

[Question] Why has the concept been added to the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact nations?

[Answer] It is because they have recognized the fact that the arms race has reached an unprecedented tempo and become increasingly irrational and burdensome. The military spending of the United States already exceeded $2 trillion in the 1980's. What is the result? The United States, which had been the world's largest creditor nation, has become the largest debtor nation. In the nuclear age, increasing armaments may drive a nation into bankruptcy but it cannot be an effective political tool. This is why the rational sufficiency concept has emerged and is now reflected in the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact nations.

[Question] Are there norms which can determine rational and sufficient levels and limits for arms reduction?

[Answer] Yes, there are norms. For example, Soviet Defense Minister Yazov said that the Warsaw Pact nations proposed that from the standpoint of sufficiency and, of course, on the basis of reciprocity, each side would reduce its military capability to a level where it can guarantee self-defense but lack the capability and means to launch offensive action.

The conclusion of a treaty for a 50% cut of Soviet and U.S. strategic nuclear arms can be an important step in reducing the level of military confrontation. Soviet physicist and academician Yevgeniy Velikhov was correct in saying that nuclear arms are not muscles but cancerous cells, and must be cut away.

[Question] The earlier, the better, I believe. It is also said that time is the most precious capital of politics, and therefore any historic opportunity must not be wasted. How then, is the rational sufficiency concept being practiced internationally?

[Answer] The treaty signed in Washington eliminating the two classes of intermediate-range missles is an example. In it, the Soviet Union agreed to reduce nearly four times as many nuclear warheads as the United States. The two sides thus agreed to eliminate the two types of nuclear arms. Also, the consistency of Soviet policies over the ABM treaty issue should be noted. If U.S. weapons are deployed in space under its SDI program, the Soviet Union will show an asymmetrical [hitaishoteki] response commensurate with it.

[Question] You have talked about the Soviet approach. What about the United States?

[Answer] Concerning the United States, the military-industrial complex, the most reactionary force in that country, has not given up its hope of attaining military and technological superiority to the Soviet Union—the superiority that gives the United States the potential for victory against the Soviet Union by means of weapons. This is also demonstrated by struggles currently underway in the United States in connection with the upcoming congressional debate on the USSR-U.S. INF elimination treaty. Right-wing factions seek to get the treaty scrapped and thus halt the momentum toward escaping confrontation. They are even working toward compensating for eliminated missiles by deploying other weapons in Europe.

[Question] Science and technology are advancing and it is impossible to check the progress. Doesn't this mean that the development of new types of weapons is inevitable? Is it possible to apply the principle of rational sufficiency to the process?

[Answer] Scientific and technological progress do not necessarily lead to the development of new weapons. That is what the militarists are trying to do. What we see now is the unprecedentedly challenging task of checking their attempt. It is possible to counter it. Military and strategic equilibrium exists between the Soviet Union and United States and between the Warsaw Pact organization and NATO, and there are forces opposing further confrontation and seeking ways for cooperation in good faith. Considerable forces are advocating the rational sufficiency concept. For them, it is sufficient if it is rational.

Venice Symposium on CSCE Issues Opens

LD031952 Moscow TASS in English 1836 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Venice February 3 TASS—TASS correspondent Nikolay Teterin reports:

An international symposium dealing with issues concerning cooperation in the humanitarian field and the work for peace and security in Europe in the Helsinki spirit opened on San Giorgio Maggiore Island in the Venice Lagoon today.

The symposium which was organised on the initiative of the Veneto regional authorities is being attended by delegations of the countries which participated in the European Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), by prominent public, political and religious figures. On the honorary committee of the symposium is Giulio Andreotti, Italian minister of foreign affairs.

Today the participants in the symposium were greeted by Professor Carlo Bernini, chairman of the Veneto regional giunta (executive power body).

Human Rights Commission Chairman on Activities
LD021847 Moscow TASS in English 1637 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—"We are not associated with any government organisation, but solely rest for support on the broadest and different circles of our public," Professor Burlatskiy, chairman of the Soviet public human rights commission, told a TASS correspondent.

"Already our first steps have met with support and understanding," he said. People come to our committee offering their services, call us up from other cities and republics, propose that branches of our commission be set up. They also, certainly, turn to us in cases of violation of rights and freedoms. We also favour a clear-cut legal regulation of the activities of informal organisations, observance of the constitutional rights and freedoms."

Answering the question about the first results of the activities of the public commission in the light of the 44th session of the U.N. human rights commission which opened in Geneva, Fedor Burlatskiy said: "We consider ourselves to be one of the organisations in the broad movement for strengthening human rights in the present-day world under the U.N. aegis." In that connection he noted the significance of the international conference on human rights and international cooperation which was held in the Netherlands early in 1988. "That meeting," he said, "was in a certain measure a turning point since it was for the first time in many years that transition was made from confrontation to businesslike cooperation. We are deeply gratified by the fact that in the course of that meeting, despite divergencies in views, mutual understanding was reached on the question of the concept of human rights and the stands were drawn closer. The representatives of our commission stressed the tremendous significance which civil and political rights assumed in the course of the drive for restructuring and mmore democracy. On their part, our partners recognize the significance of the socio-economic rights as an important component part of the position of the individual in any contemporary society."

"The other day," Fedor Burlatskiy continued, "a delegation of the international Helsinki federation of human rights groups has visited Moscow. During the meeting with the delegation many important issues were discussed of the position of the individual and human rights both in our country and other countries. Our intention was to inform our colleagues honestly and openly about what is being done and is planned to be done to strengthen the guarantees of the rights of the individual in the Soviet Union. We did not conceal difficult questions, including sore points. Our colleagues on the whole adhered to the same principle. At the same time some of them expressed themselves in the spirit that they saw their task in watching implementation of the Helsinki accords in the field of human rights not so much in their country as in the Soviet Union and in the other socialist states."

In that connection Fedor Brulatskiy stressed that the "pledge of genuine and fair cooperation is concern, that the rights of the individual envisaged by the Helsinki final act be increasingly profoundly and consistently implemented at one's own home".

United States & Canada

Contra Aid Defeat in Line With World Opinion

LD041026 Moscow World Service in English 0710 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Leonid Levchenko Commentary]

[Text] Next we offer you a commentary by Leonid Levchenko on the results of voting at the United States House of Representatives on the administration's request for more aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The debates were acute. Congressmen expressed different viewpoints, both in favor of aid to the contras in support of arguments put forward with persistence by President Reagan, and against them, which reflected the opinion of most Americans. Ultimately, the outlook was shared by a majority of Americans prevailed. The voting indicated that many representatives both from the ruling Republican and from the opposition Democratic Party did not approve the interventionist policy pursued by the Reagan administration in Central America.

The allocation of new funds, part of which would have been spent on the military needs of the contras, would have signified a continuation of the undeclared war against Nicaragua, and undermined the process of national reconciliation. As a matter of fact, Central American presidents spoke in favor of gaining a political solution to the crisis in the region at their recent meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Support for the administration's request conflicts with the explicitly expressed demand of the world public to leave Nicaragua in peace and search for ways of solving the Central American problem by peaceful means. Many American congressmen described aid to the Nicaraguan contras as immoral and illegal. There are more than enough reasons for such assertions. Aid to the butchers of the Nicaraguan people is immoral indeed, and the administration's attempts to describe them as freedom fighters are equally immoral.

Reagan Authorizes Chemical Bomb Production

LD031613 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Washington February 3 (TASS)—President Reagan has authorized the manufacture of Bigeye binary chemical bombs to be started in 1990, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday.

Congress has allocated funding for the production of binary munitions (in which the lethal warfare agent is formed when two comparatively low-toxic compenents are combined during the weapon's flight to target) for 1987 on condition that the President will issue a special decree saying that such arms meet U.S. national interests and the requirements of environmental protection.

On October 16, 1987, Reagan gave a similar go-ahead for the production of 155-millimeter chemical binary shells. Last December the Pentagon announced the start of their manufacture. The United States is developing also a binary warhead for multibarrel rocket launchers.

Decision Called 'Regrettable'

LD031803 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1727 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 3 Feb (TASS)—Washington's chemical rearmament is evidence that the United States is prepared to torpedo the chemical disarmament process and to mar the atmosphere of trust, glasnost, and openness established by the efforts of many states in connection with chemical weapons. This was how the USSR Armed Forces General Staff commented today on the U.S. President's directive to start production of large-caliber binary warheads—the air force's 750-pound Bigeye bomb at the military chemical works in the town of Pine Bluff, Arkansas—in 1990.

"At the Geneva talks the United States is declaring its commitment to the quickest possible drafting of a convention on the universal prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons and appears to be taking part in this work", a General Staff spokesman told a TASS correspondent. "However, as the facts show, the Pentagon is taking practical steps to add qualitatively new kinds of weapons to its military-chemical arsenal. This factor, combined with the possibility of using strategic aviation as a means of delivery of the Bigeye bombs, enables one to draw the conclusion that the United States is attempting to build strategic chemical weapons".

"The Soviet Union has warned the U.S. side of the dangerous consequences of implementation of the binary weapons plans", the General Staff spokesman said. "It is regrettable that Washington has not yet heeded this and is evidently still hoping to win certain military advantages."

Yazov-Carlucci Meeting Viewed With 'Hope'

LD031904 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet Defense Minister, General Dmitriy Yazov and the U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci will meet in Berne next month. Here is a commentary by our Military Observer Colonel Eduard (Asaturov):

[(Asaturov)] This is going to be the first official meeting between defense ministers of the two countries. It has been expected for some time now. Last year the two ministers exchanged letters. An agreement on expanding contacts was reached during the visit to the Pentagon of the Soviet Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev. The Soviet proposals for resolving a number of problems at Ministry of Defense level was supported in a bussinesslike way by the American side during the Soviet-American summit in Washington last year.

Since this is going to be the first official meeting of the two defense ministers they will be relying on the experience of the first summit between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in Geneva in November 1985. There was no agenda for that summit meeting specified in advance. An agenda was discussed at that summit and after appropriate preparations it was brought before the [words indistinct]. The two defense ministers will follow the same procedure. One can be fairly certain that they will discuss conventional weapons. Following the signing of the INF Treaty, prospects have emerged for reducing strategic offensive weapons while adhering to the ABM Treaty, and that has brought the issue of conventional weapons to the fore. Both sides, as well as their allies in Europe, have reasons to be concerned. Serious problems must be discussed and action must be taken to resolve them. Both sides rightly point to imbalances and asymmetries and the time has come to get rid of them by arms reductions.

An understanding must be reached on nuclear-capable weapons that can also carry conventional warheads and the issue of sufficiency must be discussed in earnest, with a view to converting military doctrines into purely defensive ones.

One would very much like to hope that the start of Soviet-American contacts at the top military level would bring good results.

USIA Proposal: Valuable Initiative, Dubious Aims

LD031623 Moscow TASS in English 1559 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—"A valuable initiative with dubious aims," this is how Yuriy Bandura summed up in an article in the sixth issue of the MOSCOW NEWS the proposal of director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) Charles Wick to raise if only in a procedural way the question of U.S.-Soviet talks on misinformation.

Yuriy Bandura writes that Charles Wick's initiative merits the closest of attention if only for the reason that, just as the author of the initiative aptly mentioned, the resumption of the misinformation campaign can undermine the process of achieving a greater mutual understanding between the USSR and the United States. Moreover, the question is posed very timely since the conduct of such an organization as the Voice of America radio station shows that its leaders continue resorting to misinformation even after the Washington summit of the USSR and the United States.

As an example of canards of the Voice of America, the author of the article in the MOSCOW NEWS cites a report of the Voice of America about a certain Ivan Pankratchenko allegedly sentenced in the USSR to a term of ten years in camps under article 70 of the criminal code of the Russian federation. In answer to Yuriy Bandura's question, the competent bodies reported that no sentences, either for ten years or if only for 15 days were passed on any Ivan Pankratchenko in the USSR.

Another "news" which looks not even as misinformation but much rather as a provocation is a report of the Voice of America that the public opinion in the USSR is being conditioned in such a way that all the blunders and failures which await Soviet society in future should be blamed on Jews.

It is difficult to judge by what reasons Charles Wick was guided in advancing his initiative, Yuriy Bandura writes. This is possibly yet another attempt to impose a spirit of tough propaganda confrontation on Soviet-American relations, the spirit that started abating. This undertaking is possibly also prompted by the wish to play into the hands of those who would like to torpedo the ratification of the INF Treaty in the United States. And maybe, its aim is to justify the conduct of the Voice of America in the ether.

Nevertheless, Charles Wick's initiative should be taken up, the article says. Maybe Soviet-American talks will help the U.S. propaganda department get rid of lies and misinformation and the sooner this is done, the more reasonable the hopes for irreversible positive changes in Soviet-American relations will be, the article says.

Shultz Address Congress on Several Issues

LD031404 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, 3 February (TASS)—On Tuesday U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz addressed the hearings in the committee of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives and called the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty to scrap intermediate- and shorter-range missiles "a major achievement in 1987." He called on the U.S. Senate to ratify this agreement. According to the secretary of state, at present there is also a real possibility of success at the talks between the USSR and United States on reducing strategic offensive armaments.

In the same speech by the head of the U.S. foreign policy department, he called for the continuation of the modernization of NATO nuclear systems that do not fall under the conditions of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as well as of conventional armaments of the countries in this military bloc. This call struck a noticeably dissonant chord.

Shultz informed congressmen that he is preparing for a trip to Moscow to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. In his words "a wide range of matters of interest to us" will be touched upon during these conversations. The secretary of state also discussed the

situation in the Near East. He admitted that the demonstrations by the Arab population on the Israeli-occupied territories show the need to step up the process of a peace settlement in the region.

The secretary of state devoted a lot of attention to the matter of the United States giving aid to the contra gangs in Nicaragua. Speaking on the eve of the vote in the House of Representatives on the latest request by the administration for aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, Shultz argued that the allocation of additional funding to the contras "will give peace a chance" in Central America. Although he spoke in support of the plan for a peace settlement in Central America, his remarks were received with mistrust by many Congressmen.

Washington Talks Illustrate Complexity of Issues
PM041423 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Blinov "IZVESTIYA Interview" with A.E.Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities: "From Confrontation to Cooperation"; date not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Washington—A USSR Parliamentary Group delegation which has been in the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Congress has ended. It came at a time when Soviet-U.S. relations are attracting particular attention from the U.S. public. In a conversation with an IZVESTIYA correspondent Soviet delegation head A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, said:

"We really felt the attention which our country and questions of Soviet-U.S. relations are attracting here. The indisputable progress which has been achieved in developing our ties since the 1985 Geneva summit was noted in thorough conversations with the leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate and with numerous U.S. legislators. The senators and representatives talked about the last Washington summit meeting's profound influence on the state of U.S. public opinion. As Congressman B. Gordon told us, for example, interest in life in the USSR has sharply risen in his state—he is from Tennessee—and the number of those wanting to study Russian is such that there are not enough teachers.

And, of course, a great deal has been said about the significance of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, the process of ratifying which has begun in the U.S. Congress and in the USSR Supreme Soviet. The congressional representatives with whom I managed to have conversations, including those with whom we had disagreements on particular questions, supported the treaty. We were given the opportunity of taking part in a session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and speaking at it. During the ensuing conversation A. Cranston, deputy leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate, and C. Pell, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, stressed the importance of the treaty and expressed confidence that the treaty will be ratified by the Senate.

At the same time we saw for ourselves the complexity of the current political atmosphere in America. The treaty, as is well-known, is not to everyone's liking here. It also has opponents in the Senate. But, according to the leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, only a handful will vote against the ratification of the treaty.

The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has convincingly proved that a turnaround from the arms race to disarmament is not only possible but is also quite feasible. In its wake we will be able to move on to subsequent steps, above all the conclusion of an agreement on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive armaments. Our partners—the U.S. legislators—have shown great interest in the Soviet plan for creating a nuclear-free world.

Soviet-U.S. relations are by no means confined solely to the joint resolution of military-political problems. We exchanged views on approaches to regional problems and voiced opinions on ways to develop ties between the USSR and the United States, and, of course, on the role in this process of the supreme legislative organs. It is our task as parliamentarians to make the atmosphere more favorable for getting to know and understand one another better and advancing toward the creation of normal conditions for jointly solving problems.

The legislative organs will make a weighty contribution to developing mutual understanding between the peoples of both countries if they can abandon the confrontational approach and embark on cooperation. The USSR Supreme Soviet has demonstrated a constructive approach. We gave Vice President Bush, who is chairman of the Senate, and Speaker J. Wright letters on behalf of the representatives of both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet. They contain proposals for the creation of a mechanism for the regular joint examination at parliamentary level of questions concerning cooperation in the humanitarian sphere and observance of human rights in the USSR and the United States. Holding "round tables," television hookups, and other meetings between Supreme Soviet deputies and congressional members are envisaged.

Moreover, we submitted a number of proposals on stepping up the overall level of cooperation between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Congress. In particular, we proposed maintaining regular ties between standing commissions, including by delegation exchanges. The creation of sections for bilateral ties in parliamentary groups—friendship groups between the USSR and the United States.

U.S. congressmen showed interest in our proposals and themselves singled out a number of avenues for cooperation. Thus, C. Pepper, House of Representatives Rules

Committee chairman, and U.S. Parliamentary Group members L. Boggs and B. Gordon showed interest in exchanging experience of resolving environmental protection problems. Moreover, in their opinion, it could also be of mutual benefit to acquaint ourselves with one another's approach to questions of prenatal care, health care, and the problems of young people and the aged. This all illustrates that the closer the association we have with one another, the more possibilities we can see for expanding cooperation.

By and large, A.E. Voss said in conclusion, I cannot help but point out the favorable atmosphere in which the visit took place: It improved appreciably after the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting last December. Under these conditions many questions, including those on which we disagree, could be discussed without unnecessary confrontation, in a businesslike spirit. This illustrates that both countries' legislative organs have not been bypassed by the favorable changes which have been observed recently in Soviet-U.S. relations.

Kurdyumov Calls Veto on Israel 'Shameful'

PM040919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 88 First Edition p 1

[N. Kurdyumov "Rejoinder": "Shameful Veto"]

[Text] At UN headquarters last Monday an event took place that lifted the veil of hypocrisy from Washington's Near East policy and showed it up in its true light.

The moment of truth came as the result of a vote in the Security Council on a draft resolution by the nonaligned countries which pointed out the urgent need for an all-embracing, just, and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict under UN auspices and which contained a demand that Israel quickly end its repression on the occupied lands.

The urgency of the world community's demands for an end to the Israeli occupiers' violence on the captured territories is obvious. The invaders' "iron fist" policy of flagrant mass violations of elementary human rights has aroused an angry reaction and condemnation virtually everywhere except... in Washington. Or rather from the U.S. Administration, whose representatives, as we know, seize every opportunity to pose as ardent champions of freedom and human rights. But this time there was no righteous indignation there. Indeed, the U.S. capital preferred to close its eyes to the Israeli terror and protect its "strategic ally." The U.S. delegate vetoed the resolution, which, by the way, all the other 14 Security Council members supported, including America's allies.

A shameful veto! It showed for all to see not only the Washington officials' double standard on the human rights question but also clearly demonstrated the value of their assurances of their "commitment" to the cause of a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Vasilyev on 'Double Standard'

PM040923 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1

[N. Vasilyev "Rejoinder": "What Kind of Veto Is This?"]

[Text] At the UN Security Council last Monday an event took place which highlighted the unsavory nature of Washington's policy in the Near East.

The U.S. delegate vetoed the nonaligned countries' draft resolution and thereby prevented the adoption of a document which points to the urgent need for an all-embracing, just, and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict under the UN auspices and which contains the demand that Israel quickly end its violation of human rights on the occupied lands.

The need for an end to the Israeli occupiers' violence on the captured territories is obvious. The invaders' "iron fist" policy of flagrant mass violations of elementary human rights has aroused an angry reaction and condemnation virtually everywhere except... in Washington. Or rather from the U.S. Administration, whose representatives, as we know, seize every opportunity to pose as ardent champions of freedom and human rights. But the "human rights' defenders" in the U.S. capital preferred to close their eyes to the Israeli terror and excesses. They could not miss a chance to oblige their "strategic ally." The Washington officials were clearly not troubled either by the splendid isolation in which the U.S. delegation found itself. After all, the remaining 14 Security Council members without exception, including America's allies, voted for the draft resolution.

The U.S. veto showed for all to see not only the Washington officials' double standard on the human rights question but also clearly demonstrated the value of their assurances of their "commitment" to the cause of a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

China

Zhao Ziyang Welcomes Improved Relations

LD021741 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Beijing February 2 TASS—A certain improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States that has started of late merits approval, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Zhao Ziyang said in a TV address to the participants in the world economic forum in Davos.

He said that China's fundamental stand in international affairs is a firm and consistent protection of world peace. "We welcome the measures taken by the Soviet Union and the United States for the easing of tension," the Chinese leader said. China supports the five principles of peaceful coexistence in relations with other countries. If

the measures taken by the Soviet Union and the United States meet the five principles, then these measures will promote the development of Chinese-Soviet and Chinese-American relations. Touching upon bilateral relations of the PRC with the USA and the USSR, the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee said, specifically, that "Chinese-American relations have been developing in a stable way in the recent years and relations between China and the Soviet Union have been improving step-by-step. At the same time, I would like to state outright that problems arise in Chinese-American relations from time to time, and there are still obstacles to Chinese-Soviet relations," he said.

Dwelling on the domestic policy of the PRC, the Chinese leader emphasised particularly that the line of the CPC worked out by the 13th party congress met with broad support of the people and is irreversible. Having analysed the present realities of the country, the congress arrived at the conclusion that China is building socialism in conditions of a low level of the development of the productive forces and little-developed commodity economy, is at the initial stage of socialism. [sentence as received]

Zhao Ziyang said that due to a reform and the policy of expanding contacts with other countries, the PRC succeeded in doubling the volume of the gross national product and incomes of the population in the past nine years. "We need measures promoting the development of the productive forces in our country and we shall be permitting and encouraging such measures. We shall not be refusing any means needed for the development of the commodity economy," said the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Xinjiang Border Trade Agreement Signed

OW020942 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet East-Xinjiang Trading Corporation and the Chinese Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Import-Export Company ended talks in Moscow after signing the 1988 barter agreement between the Kazakh and other republics in Central Asia on the one hand, and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on the other with total volume reaching 10.4 million Swiss francs. (Kharugin), manager of the East-Xinjiang Trading Corporation, and (He Jingmu), head of the Chinese delegation, in their interview with a Moscow Radio reporter said they were satisfied with the results of the talks and discussed the prospects of developing local trade between the Soviet Union and China. In May this year, a Soviet-Chinese local trade and commodities fair will be held in Tashkent.

Border Trade Viewed

OW020930 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0600 GMT 31 Jan 88

[From the "Advance Along the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" program]

[Excerpts] Now let us talk about Soviet-Chinese trade. Representatives from a Soviet foreign trade company—the East-Xinjiang Trade Company—and China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Import-Export Company concluded their talks in Moscow only a few days ago. The two sides discussed how to further develop Soviet-Chinese border trade in that region. [passage omitted]

The volume of commodity turnover along the border has increased nearly nine times since 1983. Special trade companies have started handling matters concerning the regulation and development of border trade. [passage omitted]

Comrade (Talushin), manager of the East-Xinjiang Trade Company, said: Our talks with the Xinjiang Import-Export Company were held in a friendly atmosphere, and we successfully concluded the talks. During the talks, we signed a 10.3 million-Swiss franc contract with the Chinese side. [passage omitted] This means that the Chinese goods supplied to our border areas in 1988 will be worth 10.3 million Swiss francs. Under the just-signed contract, we will supply to China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region goods worth 90,000-odd Swiss francs (?more than the above figure). [passage omitted]

Comrade (Tu Xinmao), head of a trade delegation from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, said: [passage omitted] The trade between the Xinjiang and Soviet border areas has played a positive role in increasing the friendly contacts between the people of the two countries. In addition to enhancing our friendship, this has also made it possible for each of us to supply the commodities the other needs. [passage omitted] Both sides held that there are good prospects and great potential for the development of Sino-Soviet border trade. [passage omitted]

Jilin Trade Delegation Arrives in Nakhodka

OW020914 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] A foreign trade delegation from China's Jilin Province has arrived in the eastern Soviet Union's Nakhodka City. In the coming week, the members of the delegation will hold talks on border trade with their Soviet counterparts.

(Medyenchikov), a Soviet delegate participating in the talks, said that Soviet-Chinese border trade had just begun.

He said: We and our Chinese counterparts believe that there are good prospects for border trade, which is a favorable supplement to the trade between our two countries.

USSR Machine Tool Delegation Arrives 27 Jan

OW020922 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] On 27 January, a delegation from a Soviet Import-Export Corporation flew into China for talks on technology and trade with the China National Machinery Import-Export Corporation.

The company represents the interests of the Soviet Red Proletarian Combined Machine Tool Factory. Products made by the factory are exported to all corners of the world, including China.

The leader of the company Comrade (Poravenchev), before taking off, told our station's reporter that the potential for Soviet-Chinese cooperation has not been explored completely. He pointed out that in upcoming talks both sides will discuss ways to further expand Soviet exports to China and increase varieties of export goods and study the possibility of jointly making machine tools with Chinese counterparts on a cooperative basis.

(Poravenchev) strongly indicated that he hopes the upcoming talks will be a step further in the direction of promoting cooperation of mutual benefit.

Ivanov on USSR-PRC 'High-Level Meeting'

OW031432 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

["Talk" by station observer Ivanov: "Prospects for the Development of Cooperation between the USSR and the PRC"]

[Text] Not long ago, noted Chinese political activist Deng Xiaoping's selected works entitled "Fundamental Problems in Contemporary China" was introduced to the public in Moscow. This book by Deng Xiaoping, who is called the chief architect of reform in China, has aroused the tremendous interest of Soviet people. Judging from news reports from Beijing, people in China are waiting with interest for the publication of the Chinese edition of Soviet leader Gorbachev's book "Perestroyka."

Another thing has also attracted the attention of world opinion: Comrade Gorbachev answered questions raised by the Chinese magazine LIAOWANG last month. While answering questions, he expressed satisfaction with the increasing Soviet-Chinese cooperation of mutual benefit in various fields.

All the above things, which no one dared to touch on not long ago, indicate a favorable turn for and great progress in the development of relations between our two countries and peoples. Now people can observe such great progress in many aspects of our mutual relations. Take trade and economic relations for example. Soviet-Chinese relations in trade and the scientific and technological fields have brisked up since 1983. An agreement signed by the Soviet and Chinese governments in Beijing in 1984 and another one signed in Moscow (?the following year) are of great significance. According to the 1986-1990 trade and payments agreement, the volume of trade between our two countries will be about R12 billion in this period, and their annual volume of trade will reach R3 billion in 1990. [words indistinct] Such development is remarkable.

In Moscow, an agreement was reached on the construction or reconstruction of 24 industrial and other projects in the PRC. Some of the projects were the results of fruitful Soviet-Chinese cooperation in the fifties. Now such cooperation has been resumed on a new and important scale.

It should be pointed out that the Soviet Union and China now do not confine their cooperation to traditional forms but strive to seek new and modern ways of cooperation, including technological cooperation and the establishment of joint ventures.

The priorities given by the two countries to accelerating economic development and reforming their socialist national economies are similar. This has opened up the broadest possible prospects for smoothly developing our economic and technological cooperation and exchanging experience.

In political cooperation between the Soviet Union and the PRC, there are also factors that give rise to hope among people. Special envoys of the two governments often hold political consultations. Another round of consultations on Soviet-Chinese relations will be held in Moscow in June this year. The talks on the Soviet-Chinese border issue are continuing.

What is very important is this: In the international arena, the Soviet Union and China act on the most important issues of the present age according to their identical or similar stands. These issues include preventing nuclear war, curbing the arms race, and prohibiting the militarization of outer space. As Comrade Gorbachev pointed out in his statement to the Chinese magazine LIAOWANG, while waging the consistent and resolute struggle for the survival of mankind, the Soviet Union, of course, also considers cooperation with the PRC in this struggle because many aspects of world affairs depend on China's policy.

Judging from some indications, a high-level [gao ji] meeting, for which both sides feel the objective need, will be a logical development of political dialogue [dui hua] between the Soviet Union and China. Deng Xiaoping mentioned this last autumn. In his statement published in LIAOWANG, Comrade Gorbachev also reiterated that it would be appropriate to hold such a meeting. Experience shows that a high-level meeting can solve problems which appear to be unsolvable.

Then, how are things in resuming relations between the CPSU and the CPC? The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated not long ago that no talks of such a nature had been held. However, the Soviet Union is convinced that the relations between our two parties will be resumed.

U.S. Considers PRC 'Hostile Country'

OW011400 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Station Observer Commentary]

[Text] It is reported that at a Beijing press conference the spokesman of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared that the Chinese Government was very much concerned with press reports in the West that the U.S. Department of Defense has placed China on its secret list of so-called hostile countries. According to the spokesman, that contradicted many statements by the U.S. Government. In this connection, an observer of this station writes:

The list of so-called hostile countries compiled by the Pentagon, as reported by newspapers in the West, cannot but cause worry and uneasiness in countries the world over. Human history shows that, since ancient times, hostilities, conflicts, and disputes have existed in the world, and that mistrust, suspicion, and fear have existed among all nations. Customarily, if one country is not on good terms with another one and is having disputes with it, then this country will, both covertly and overtly, regard that other country as a hostile country. Obviously, such a practice can in no way bring about a solution to the disputes or reach understanding, but will, on the contrary, aggravate mutual mistrust and suspicion. There is no need to further discuss the fact that such a way of handling international relations is incompatible with the realities of our time.

In our chaotic nuclear world, a new political thought should be followed in handling international relations. This is a requirement for ensuring human survival, and a requirement for preventing nuclear disaster. According to this new political thought, international relations must be completely free of hostility, mistrust, suspicion, and fear; and new international relations must be established on the basis of mutual trust and mutual respect.

Everyone knows that the USSR and other peace-loving countries have been actively advocating that such a thought be implemented in reality. For example, the declaration signed by leaders of the USSR and India has set forth the principles for building a world free of nuclear weapons and violence. The declaration notes that fear and suspicion should be replaced with mutual understanding and trust. Mistrust, fear, and suspicion between countries and peoples not only will prevent people from building a peaceful world, but will also cause tension and, eventually, losses to all countries in the world. In our times, all peace-loving countries want to contribute to building a secure world, hoping that they can establish friendly relations with other countries on the basis of mutual trust, mutual understanding, and mutual respect, through which they can settle their mutual problems and eliminate misunderstanding.

Chinese leaders have time and again stated that they are loyal to these principles. In a recent article published by the weekly LIAOWANG, Huan Xiang, director of the International Studies Center of the PRC State Council, examined current Sino-U.S. relations. According to Huan Xiang, six controversial issues have negatively affected Sino-U.S. relations. In the same article, he also put forward four principled measures which he maintained should serve as the basis of Sino-U.S. relations. He said: It is necessary to learn mutual respect, promote mutual understanding, acknowledge the rights of another people to choose their system and ideology, and treasure—not damage or undermine—the successes that have already been accomplished in bilateral relations. It is very apparent that, to smoothly develop bilateral relations, both countries must have the desire [to achieve this objective]. We must realize that only cooperation and mutual accommodation can help countries eliminate their misunderstandings and settle all their problems, big and small, in all areas.

Northeast Asia

U.S. 'Spy Action' Over DPRK Reported

LD011605 Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (TASS)—A strategic reconnaissance plane of the U.S. Air Force intruded into the airspace of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over its Western coast today. There have been six such spy actions, directed against the DPRK's sovereignty and security, this year, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY OF KOREA reports.

The provocation was undertaken following Seoul's publication of plans of holding large-scale joint American-South Korean military exercises "Team Spirit-88" and testifies to lack of the United States' interest in relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula, the news agency says.

Anniversary of U.S. Nuclear Arms in Korea Noted

PM011913 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Cause of Tension"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 29 Jan—The presence in South Korea of U.S. troops equipped with modern types of nuclear weapons is the chief cause of the continuing tension in this part of the globe, reads a statement for the press by O Chin-u, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo Presidium and DPRK minister of the People's Armed Forces. He was speaking in connection with the 30th anniversary of the importation of the first consignments of U.S. nuclear warheads into the south of the Korean peninsula. The United States has turned South Korea into its "nuclear magazine" in the Far East by concentrating various kinds of offensive arms there.

Guided by its interest in specific actions in the name of achieving national concord, the DPRK has advanced an initiative to convene a joint conference of representatives from North and South. The realization of this proposal could be a turning point.

The U.S. desire to preserve its nuclear presence in the south of the Korean peninsula runs counter to the armistice agreement in Korea. The demand for the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear arms has become particularly topical following the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

Soviet-Japanese Economic Talks End in Tokyo

LD021322 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo February 2 TASS—The 11th joint session of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet Committees on Economic Cooperation was a major milestone on the way of the expansion of trade and economic relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. It came to a close here today. A broad exchange of views was held at the conference on the state and prospects of the development of economies of the USSR and Japan, as well as cooperation between the two countries.

A joint communique on the results of the conference said that in conditions of a radical economic reform which is being implemented in the USSR and of giving to a number of Soviet branch ministries and industrial enterprises of the right to operate in the foreign markets on their own, new opportunities emerged for the development of cooperation with Japanese firms. Participants in the conference pointed out that the adoption in the USSR of a long-term state program of the development of productive forces of the Far Eastern economic region for a period ending in 2000 opened up broad prospects of the expansion of bilateral trade and economic ties.

Train Crossing USSR Carried Spy Equipment

PM011509 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jan 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Case Being Heard"]

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Jan—New facts have become public in the legal action—which has been under way in Tokyo for almost 2 years now—involving the container loaded with espionage equipment which was seized by Soviet customs organs in January 1986 near Moscow en route from Japan to the FRG.

As has become known in court, immediately prior to its dispatch to the Soviet Union its registration number was forged by unidentified persons who were trying to ship a portable intelligence-gathering center in the guise of ordinary civilian freight across the USSR using "clean documents." Representatives of the plaintiff—the Trans-Siberian Container Transport Company—stated this at the trial.

In December 1985 the Sun Union trading firm asked the Trans-Siberian Container Company and its agent, Maruzen Showa, to deliver to Hamburg a consignment of ornamental eastern vases. The clients themselves loaded their freight into the container and sealed it. Then it was taken by sea to the Soviet port of Nakhodka and dispatched by railroad across Siberia to the FRG. But in January 1986 Soviet customs officials presented Kenjo Inada, president of Trans-Siberian Container, with a complete set of espionage equipment which had been in the container: an automatic camera, a device for determining radioactivity levels and identifying the path covered, powerful batteries, and a computer for processing the information.

After paying a large fine to his USSR partners, as contracted, Kenjo Inada initiated judicial proceedings against his clients. In the course of the investigation it was revealed that the genuine container with the vases was, to all appearances, switched while still on Japanese territory. The organizers of this operation obviously hoped that the customs seals and documents would serve as a good "cover" to conceal the espionage trail across USSR territory.

As emerged later, the genuine container with the ornamental vases was discovered by accident in the U.S. port of Baltimore. It is not known who got it out of Japan and how. It has only been established, the daily YOMIURI writes, that the Maruzen Showa employee directly responsible for loading the "ornamental vases" hurriedly left for the United States together with his family last April and is now in Hawaii; he refuses to take part in the judicial investigation.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Thais 'Escalating' Armed Conflict with Laos

LD031818 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Commentator Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

Alarming reports are coming from the Lao-Thai border. Armed clashes are continuing there between Lao border units and Thai troops that intruded into Lao territory. On Tuesday Thai F-5 jet planes subjected Lao positions to massive bombing. With the help of air support Thai units seized some of the Lao positions.

Thailand has made territorial claims to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and wants to solve this issue by armed force. As a result, the situation around three

villages in Paclai District (Sainyabuli Province) [placenames as received] remains unsettled while now the Thai authorities are trying to seize also a part of Muang Boten district in the same province.

Facts show that the dispute between Laos and Thailand is largely a leftover of the colonial division of Indochina. Certain imperialist forces are trying to use it in their selfish interests and are fanning hostility between Asian countries, in particular between countries of Southeast Asia. It is absolutely clear that an aggravation of the situation on the Lao-Thai border is not in the interests of the peoples of Thailand and Laos which have a friendship of long standing.

Proceeding from the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries and emphatically rejecting a solution of outstanding issues with Thailand by means of arms the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has repeatedly proposed to solve them at the negotiating table and to restore good neighbourly relations between the two countries. Late in January it again proposed to hold talks this month either in Bangkok or Vientiane. But the Thai side, as we see, so far responds by escalating the armed conflict.

This line runs counter to the present tendency towards a peaceful settlement of outstanding issues in Southeast Asia, in particular those concerning the situation around neighbouring Kampuchea, and also to the new political thinking which is gaining ground in the international arena. A further escalation of hostilities in the area of the Lao-Thai border can only bring about a worsening of relations between Thailand and Laos and is fraught with an aggravation of the situation in the whole of Southeast Asia.

Confidence is being expressed in the Soviet Union that the sides will display political realism and good will and will be able to settle the incident by political means and thus put an end to the senseless bloodshed. A good basis for resuming the Lao-Thai dialogue is created by the Lao Government's proposal to settle the existing problems between the two countries by way of talks on principles of equality and without preliminary conditions. The settlement of the Lao-Thai dispute would make a contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and security in Southeast Asia and in the whole world.

'Shocking' Sihanouk Resignation Noted

BK040635 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1330 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Vladimir Korolev Commentary]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee, the ruling party in Cambodia, has held its session in Phnom Penh to hear the report by Comrade Hun Sen, head of the PRK Government, on his talks with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. In his report, the PRK leader noted that his recent second meeting with Samdech Sihanouk in a Paris suburb has become a new step toward the settlement of the Cambodian problem and national reconciliation. This meeting demonstrated that the Pol Pot regime, which is condemned for the massacre of 3 million Cambodians, will not be restored in Cambodia.

Our commentator, Comrade Vladimir Korolev, notes:

These talks between the Cambodian groups have brought satisfaction to those who really want stability quickly restored in Southeast Asia, and have been concretely supported, particularly by India, Indonesia, the Soviet Union, France, and many other countries. Soon after the talks, however, there was some shocking news: Sihanouk told AFP in Beijing that he could no longer continue the talks because he had resigned from his post to become an ordinary man, representing no one. According to Sihanouk's statement, there was an extraordinary ideological and personal incompatibility among the leaders of the tripartite Cambodian opposition groups. As stressed by Sihanouk, the tripartite Cambodian opposition groups are always under pressure from outsiders.

Is Sihanouk's attitude accidental? People may agree with his complaint about pressure from outside forces, which he did not name. In any case, these must be the forces that do not want a Cambodian solution.

It should be recalled that immediately after the end of the first round of talks, Sihanouk sent a message informing Comrade Hun Sen that he would not attend further talks. At that time, he set a precondition that the talks could be continued only if the two other Cambodian groups attended. But at that time, the realistic trend and international opinion favoring a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian problem had won. Seeing this, Sihanouk changed his attitude and continued his talks with Comrade Hun Sen. It should be recalled that representatives of the two other opposition groups had also been invited to attend this second round of talks, but they arrogantly refused to attend.

As for the PRK leadership, which has always advocated settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means, it has expressed the will of the entire Cambodian people to continue the constructive dialogue.

Cambodia's Chea Sim Hails INF Treaty

LD031432 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Phnom Penh February 3 TASS—"The Kampuchean people along with all progressive mankind enthusiastically welcome the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles," Chea Sim, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary party of Kampuchea and chairman of the National Assembly, told the opening of the assembly's regular session today.

"Kampuchea's National Assembly regards that document as an achievement of the constructive and realistic policy of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, their lofty responsibility for the maintenance of lasting peace and international security."

"The present-day situation in the world and in Southeast Asia has a favourable effect on revolutionary processes in Kampuchea and stabilization of its economic situation. The mounting trend towards dialogue and political solution of regional problems meets the vital interests of the Kampuchean people," he said.

"The policy of national reconciliation, proclaimed by the Kampuchean Government, has won broad approval. The talks between Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk became an important step toward settling the Kampuchean problem," said the Kampuchean leader.

"Despite the continued machinations of hostile forces, the country's economy has strengthened considerably. Although some 1987 plan assignments have not been met, vigorous growth was recorded in all key economic sectors.

The enhanced revolutionary awareness of the masses facilitated the consolidation of people's power in provinces.

Groups of saboteurs sent from Thailand meet strong resistance on the part of the local population. The Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Kampuchea gain strength and acquire the experience of combat operations," Chea Sim pointed out.

Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and chairman of the State Council of Kampuchea, is taking part in the session.

Near East & South Asia

Proposed Afghan Government-in-Exile Examined

LD041315 Moscow World Service in English 0110 GMT 4 Feb 88

[From the "Focus on Asia and the Pacific" program]

[Excerpts] According to reports from the Pakistani city of Peshawar, the leaders of seven Afghan opposition groups have issued a statement proclaiming their plan to establish what they call an Afghan government. This government, they said, will rule Afghanistan during the pull-out of Soviet troops from there and after it. Aleksandr (Batev) comments:

It's noteworthy that the alliance of seven issued its statement at a time when United Nations Undersecretary General Diego Cordovez was still engaged in his shuttle journeys between Islamabad and Kabul in preparations for another round of indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva. Analysts believe that this round might prove to be final.

The signing of agreements is to be followed by the process of stopping American aid to the extremists and pulling out Soviet troops. All this raises the question of Afghanistan's future, and of the forces that will make up its government. Though the groupings in exile officially don't support the talks in Geneva, they, judging by the statement, are not averse to using the fruit of such talks. The statement clearly reveals their desire to stand at the wheel of state power in Afghanistan, and steer that wheel. The extremists have (?reserved) the right to decide who in the Afghan political forces can join the government and who cannot.

The statement issued by the alliance of seven in Peshawar is typical of exile groupings which have been claiming the role of sole representatives of the Afghan people for years. But to be able to form a government, it's necessary to enjoy popular support, to exert influence on the mass. But do the groupings entrenched in Peshawar have this influence? As a matter of fact, the United Nations has not so far recognized the alliance of seven as a force qualified to take part in solving the Afghan problem on the grounds that according to specialized United Nations publications, the ringleaders of extremist groupings do not enjoy undisputed support even among the Afghan exiles based in Pakistan.

Maybe the situation is different inside Afghanistan itself. The Peshawar statement claims that it is. According to the statement the extremists have the right to form a new Afghan Government because they have liberated 80 percent of the occupied Afghan territory. A British specialist on Afghanistan, Mark Urban, has pointed to the groundlessness of such statements. [passage omitted] And the British newspaper INDEPENDENT points out that control over many regions, including the greater part of areas adjoining the long border with Pakistan, is exercised by the Afghan security forces. The combat capacity of government troops is very high, which was proved recently when they broke the siege of Khowst.

The influence and authority of the Kabul Government are so strong that the attempts to underestimate them are hardly convincing. The strength of the Kabul government is based not on the army only but rather on social and economic reforms launched after the 1978 revolution. The reforms are aimed at extricating the country from its centuries-old stagnation and stepping up the development of Afghan society. President Najibullah has said recently that the policy of national reconciliation is in conformity with the principles of the popular revolution. This policy was prompted not by weakness but by the awareness of strength and influence enjoyed by the party. The ruling party created in Afghanistan a new type of political and economic system which rules out infringement of anyone's rights.

The Afghan Constitution, approved by the National Assembly at the end of last year, laid legal foundations for national reconciliation. It is clear that the exiles in Peshawar are incapable of changing the major trend now in evidence. The Afghan people are tired of war. Now they support those who made a tangible contribution to the efforts to stop the bloodshed fast. An opportunity to make a similar contribution is also open to the leaders of the alliance of seven. Will they decide to join the caravan of national reconciliation in time or remain alone in the desert? This how the question stands now.

Afghan Withdrawal 'Within 2 Months' Possible

LD041201 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 4 (KUNA)—A senior Soviet diplomat has emphasized that his country's troops in Afghanistan will be withdrawn within two months if the Afghani-Pakistani talks, currently taking place in Geneva, were fruitful.

Advisor at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Savo Stianov [name as received] said, in a statement to daily "AL-WATAN," published here Thursday, that constructive efforts are needed from all parties to the regional conflict in order to reach a political settlement and stop the bloodshed.

He called on the U.S. and Pakistan to stop intervening in Afghanistan's internal affairs so as to facilitate a solution to the Afghan problem.

Last year, the U.S. has extended the sum of 715 million dollars to Afghan fighters whilst Pakistan allowed the presence of anti-revolutionary forces to operate from its territories, the Soviet diplomat charged.

National Conciliation in Afghanistan can only be fulfilled through dialogue between parties concerned, he said.

The indirect new round of Afghan-Pakistan negotiations, currently underway, are held under the aegis of the United Nations.

Iraq's Husayn Meets Supreme Soviet Delegation

LD031521 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1446 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad 3 Feb (TASS)—Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic, today received a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The president of Iraq highly appraised the state of Soviet-Iraqi relations. He stated that the Iraqi leadership is striving to continue the line of further developing and strengthening friendship and comprehensive, mutually beneficial cooperation with the Soviet Union. Iraq, stressed the president, strives for peace, for a most rapid halt to the Iran-Iraq war taking into account the lawful interests of both Iraq and Iran. S. Husayn confirmed the readiness of Iraq to fulfill all the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The head of the Soviet delegation informed the president about the restructuring which is under way in the USSR and about the ways the Soviet people are tackling the tasks of accelerating socioeconomic development. He set out the principled position of the USSR on the issue of the speediest possible cessation of the Iran-Iraq war and on solving all disputed questions between Iran and Iraq at the negotiating table. The discussion took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The meeting between the Soviet delegation and T.Y. Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq, took place the same day. The two sides noted the importance of developing contacts and links between the Societ Union and the Republic of Iraq in all spheres, in keeping with the Soviet-Iraqi Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.

Iranian Envoy Received by Dobrynin

LD301445 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to the Soviet Union Naser Heirani-Nobari met with Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Soviet Communist Party Anatoliy Dobrynin in Moscow Friday.

During the two-hour talks, the two discussed issues relevant to the Iraqi-imposed war, the crisis in Afghanistan, Persian Gulf developments and the latest moves in the United Nations Security Council.

Iranian's Remarks on Afghanistan Assailed

NC041340 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Remarks by an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman have surprised Soviet social circles. At a news conference in Tehran, the spokesman alleged that by extending assistance to neighboring Afghanistan, the Soviet Union (?is facilitating) U.S. intervention in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan and of the entire region.

Where is the source of these concoctions? They are born in the minds of politicians who believe that the world is the sphere of influence of the two big powers and who view the maneuvers between these countries as high-level demonstrations of strength. Such people do not take into consideration the fact that the policies of the Soviet Union and the United States are based upon different principles. These gentlemen attribute objectives and intentions to Moscow which happen to be the characteristics of the imperialist circles on the other side of the ocean. It is with logic of this kind that they describe the Soviet Union's assistance to Afghanistan as an intervention. However, this is overt dishonesty.

U.S. intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs began immediately after the victory of the April revolution. This intervention continued for about 20 months, until the Soviet Union was called by the Afghan Government for assistance in thwarting foreign aggression. The anti-monarchical revolution in Iran also intensified imperialist machinations in the Persian Gulf and led to the aggressive attack on Iran by U.S. commandos.

Washington has always responded to national liberation struggles with threats or force. Every revolution should take this fact into consideration. It is not logical to describe the means that are used to defend a revolution as foreign intervention.

However, the situation in the Persian Gulf is another matter. Here the continuation of the bloody and meaningless Iran-Iraq war and the attacks on tankers of various countries have truly created a pretext for the escalation of the military presence of imperialist governments—primarily the United States.

As for the Soviet Union, inclination toward hegemony is an unknown objective. The Soviet Union's policy on Afghanistan, Iran, or any other country does not stem from profit-seeking considerations and does not change as circumstances change. The Soviet Union's limited military forces—as repeatedly pointed out by Moscow—will be ready to pull out of Afghanistan as soon as imperialist intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs ends. On the eve of the Afghanistan-Pakistan talks in Geneva, Soviet leaders stated their agreement to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within a period of 12 months or even less.

During his news conference, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman praised this initiative. However, at the same time, he demanded that Afghanistan's sovereignty be handed over to extremists who are supported by imperialism and regional reaction. With this kind of assessment of the situation, one cannot (?have confidence) that Tehran has well understood what the Soviet Union means by (?independence). The success of this initiative depends upon ensuring that foreign intervention in Afghanistan's affairs will not be resumed and that the right conditions will be created for the Afghans to solve their problems independently. Thus, praising this initiative without taking these guarantees into consideration is worth nothing. Moreover, this kind of attitude (?ignores) the wishes of the Afghan people and nullifies the Afghan people's hundreds of years of struggle for independence and social progress.

Unfortunately the remarks by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman did not answer the question of whether Iran is prepared to play its part in the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. On the contrary, he attacked the Afghanistan-Pakistan talks in Geneva—talks which the world's social circles expect to yield a final and positive solution to these problems. A successful completion of the talks will meet the vital interests not only of the Afghans and Pakistanis, but of the Iranian nation too.

India's Menon Meets with Shevardnadze

LD032323 Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, has received (?a) secretary for international affairs of the Indian Foreign Ministry, Sankara Menon, who is taking part in Soviet-Indian consultations in Moscow. In a friendly conversation they said they were satisfied with further cooperation between their countries in solving key international issues on the basis of the Delhi declaration. They agreed the world community must pool its efforts to rid the earth of nuclear weapons and violence. They also discussed current bilateral issues.

Meets with Dobrynin

LD041255 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin has had a meeting with K.P.S. Menon, secretary for external affairs of the Indian foreign ministry, at his request.

During the conversation held in a warm friendly atmosphere, the sides discussed issues of the further development of Soviet-Indian relations.

They also considered some topical issues of the international situation.

Morocco Reportedly Offers Facilities for F-16's

LD031819 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] It is said that Reagan has had sleepless nights lately thinking about a possible location for the 72 F-16's which must leave Spain as soon as possible in accordance with a decision by that government. This is indeed a difficult problem: In the present substantial improvement in the international situation, who will accept the expansion of a foreign military presence on its soil, especially in the context of planes capable of carrying nuclear arms? Add to this the growing efforts in many countries aimed at the elimination of military bases and other foreign centers which the experience of many years has proved can be the cause of much evil, whether at home or abroad.

The U.S. Administration is said to have persuaded Italy. We shall not try to confirm the truth of this, for although there are many military centers of the United States and other NATO countries in that country, and the country

itself is a member of that alliance, it has sufficiently strong organizations struggling for peace and detente and for the achievement of guaranteed international security.

Yet here is a strange cable from Washington which says that a prominent Moroccan diplomat has announced that his country is ready to shelter the U.S. planes in order to recover its reputation as NATO's most privileged ally. We might ask: Can this be believed? And you would be right to ask it. It is known that Moroccan patriots struggled courageously in the sixties for the withdrawal of foreign military bases from their country. And this struggle won support from official quarters. The military bases were removed from Morocco, as happened in other countries of the Arab Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. The U.S. planes carrying weapons of death no longer take off and land at Al-Qunaytirah and other Moroccan cities. What happened? At any rate, if I were asked whether it is possible to believe the report coming from Washington, I would reply: No.

U.S. Warships Arrive in Egypt, 'Concern' Voiced

LD041016 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo February 4 TASS—Three U.S. warships arrived for a four-day "friendly visit" in the big Egyptian Mediterranean port of Alexandria on Wednesday.

The MENA news agency reports that the group includes the aircraft carrier "Coral Sea" and two escort ships. The people in Egypt feel concern over the build-up in Eastern Mediterranean of the American naval group which is trying to use Egyptian seaports in its interests.

The U.S. Destroyer "Brusque" entered Port Said the day before. Apprehension is being voiced in this connection that the American command intends to turn naval bases and ports of the Arab Republic of Egypt into transshipping points for U.S. separate ships and squadrons coursing in the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.

More On Saudi Foreign Minister's Moscow Talks

PM041409 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who has been in our country on a working visit, left the Soviet Union 30 January.

He was seen off at the airport by Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and other officials. Among those seeing him off were heads of Arab states' diplomatic missions accredited in the Soviet Union.

The meetings and talks in Moscow were extremely fruitful, the Saudi foreign minister told a TASS correspondent prior to his departure. They demonstrated that Saudi Arabia and the USSR are united in the desire to render the necessary assistance to the Arab people of Palestine to give them the prospect of attaining their inalienable national rights. I was very glad to hear from my Soviet interlocutors of the USSR's readiness to do everything necessary to mobilize the efforts of the world community in support of this people.

We highly value the actions of the Soviet state, which has consistently favored the convocation of an international conference on the Near East and a just settlement of the pressing problems of the region. I am satisfied with the results of the discussion on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war. On this question too the positions of our countries coincide. Both the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia seek the earliest possible end to the protracted conflict, which has had sad consequences, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

On the whole, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said, I am very satisfied with the visit, the good atmosphere in which the talks took place, and with the growth of bilateral contacts. This is all the more important, the guest emphasized, since the Soviet Union plays a crucial role in the world arena. Its role in the solution of Near East problems is also great.

Official Denies Saudi Ties Soon To Be Resumed

JN031451 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1350 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (WAM)—Aleksandr Ivanov-Galitsyn, chief of the Persian Gulf and Jordan section at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has denied press reports that his country has agreed with Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic relations in the very near future.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Ivanov-Galitsyn said that the purpose of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's recent visit to Moscow, "although it was really important," was to discuss the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Zionist repression against the sons of the Palestinian people and the means to put an end to it, as well as the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East. The developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the means to put an end to it were also discussed during the visit.

The paper cited the Soviet official as saying that the two sides also touched upon bilateral relations and the means to promote them, especially regarding the continuation of a bilateral political dialogue on various levels through meetings between the two sides.

He said that the future of resuming relations is up to the Saudi side as "we do not have any objections to resuming them, but not in the very near future."

He concluded his statement by saying: "We are looking forward to future relations between Moscow and Riyadh as much as Saudi Arabia does. The day will come when the resumption of relations is publicly announced, especially since Moscow was the first state to recognize the Saudi state before 1926."

Life in Khowst 'Noticeably Improved'

LD032322 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent M. Leshchinskiy video report from Khowst]

[Text] This is the center of Khowst and, as you can see here, there are small stores, inns, and bazaars, just as in any Afghan town. In the past we have had occasion to come here on a number of occasions, and the striking changes which have occurred since the blockade of the town was lifted are indeed perceptible. Trade has increased, and there is a much bigger choice of goods. Life has noticeably improved.

Previously, before the economic blockade imposed by the forces of the counterrevolution, Khowst, which borders on Pakistan, was flooded with goods made in the West, Japan, and Pakistan. Now, it is food and the most vital items from the Soviet Union which are on the counters. And the prices are lower than ever. The private merchants purchase these goods from the state which, in turn, obtains them mostly for free from our country. In this way the Afghan economy, which has been ravaged by the war, is being supported, which is of undoubted political importance.

Certain categories of the population receive assistance free of charge: the families of those who have been killed, invalids, and the poor. This is increasingly the result of the direct ties of patronage between towns, republics, and oblasts in our country and provinces in Afghanistan, which are already beginning to operate.

However, remember that these goods, it may be said, have no particular name on them. There is no special brand name, marking, or symbol on them to indicate that they come from our country. Because of this, the uncomprehending and illiterate people are often unaware of who is offering them the hand of assistance, and on occasion the agents of counterrevolution take advantage of this and palm them off with old bags, boxes, and packages with Western, U.S. and Pakistani markings on them. It seems to me that this should be borne in mind by all Soviet organizations that are responsible for the delivery to Afghanistan of our people's selfless aid, worth millions, which cannot be compared to the trifling amounts being spent on propaganda. This is very important. [video shows Leshchinskiy with a group of people in a town; well stocked stores with shelves full of canned goods; trucks passing along road, goods being unloaded]

Afghan Gas Industry Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD040315 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A protocol has been signed in Kabul on Soviet-Afghan cooperation in further developing the Afghan gas industry. Our correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando reports from Kabul:

[Shkirando] [passage omitted] This protocol should give a new impulse to the development of the Afghan gas industry. Here is what (Abdol Tawab Barak), deputy minister of mines and industries of the Republic of Afghanistan, said about it:

[Begin (Barak) recording in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation] The protocol which has been signed will significantly expand our cooperation in the field of the gas industry. For us, the Afghan gas workers, this document is of particular significance because it envisages the establishment of direct links between the foreign production association [name indistinct] of the Soviet Ministry of the Gas Industry and our [words indistinct] and the prospecting and survey of oil and gas of the Ministry of Mines and Industries. [end recording]

We consider that fruitful cooperation in this field will benefit both our of countries, (Abdol Tawab Barak), deputy minister of mines and industries of the Republic of Afghanistan, said in conclusion.

Moscow Publishes Mideast Political Directory

LD021019 Kuwait KUNA in English 0914 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, Feb 2 (KUNA)—A newly-published comprehensive directory on international politics has shed light on plentyful Arab and Moslem topics to enable Soviet readers understand the Arab-Moslem politics and culture.

The directory, published by a private author, is titled, "What Means What In International Politics." It contains more than 500 political and legal terms related to international and historical developments.

Arab and Moslem issues occupied some 20 pages, explaining in detail the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and identifying many Arab and Moslem regional organizations.

Among the opinions offered in the book one that emphasizes that the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel with U.S. mediation were not helping in finding a viable settlement in the region because they are "submissive in light of the continued Israeli occupation."

At the same time, it described the meeting between former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan II as an "attempt to revive the Camp David."

The Soviet Union's official stance on the Middle East question supports the convening of an international peace conference sponsored by the five permanent members of the United Nations' Security Council.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the book stated that the eight-year-old conflict started first by minor skirmishes and limited cross border attacks, but later expanded to a full-fledged war fueled by "political, religious and nationalistic disputes."

This has complicated the already-complicated situation in the Middle East, said the directory, noting that many international efforts failed to mediate between the two rival countries to end the fighting.

The directory also tackled basic Islamic principles and ideas, elaborating on some and passing quickly through others.

It even touched on the Islamic revolution in Iran, saying that it brought "political confusion", refusing, at one hand, the Western imperialist ideology, and rejecting socialist and communist theories on the other hand.

Other topics, such as the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council and several others were all discussed and identified with basic information.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Ministry Denies Giving Angola Chemical Weapons

LD031933 Moscow TASS in English 1819 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Western news agencies have widely circulated pronouncements by South Africa's officials that troops of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) ostensibly use toxic agents against UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. The UPI News Agency remarks that Angola is ostensibly supplied with the weapons by the Soviet Union.

IZVESTIYA turned for explanation to the USSR Ministry of Defence. The newspaper was officially told that the Soviet Union had discontinued the production of chemical weapons, had never used and never transferred them to others, and had not deployed them outside its borders.

The U.S. press has more than once launched campaigns to accuse the Soviet Union of using chemical weapons or of providing its allies with them. One may remember the story of the attempt to portray bee feces in Southeast Asia as traces of toxic agents or the canard about alleged use of such weapons in Afghanistan.

Each time it turned out that all the assertions served as a smokescreen to conceal the facts of the use of chemical weapons either by American troops in Southeast Asia or by counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan.

The "Angolan connection" is no exception in this respect. The PRA's spokesmen repeatedly protested in connection with the use of toxic agents by the troops of South Africa or by their UNITA puppets against the people's army and population of Angola.

Antonio dos Santos Franca, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the PRA, emphasized at the end of last year that South African invaders had used shells and mines, primed with toxic agents, in Angola's south.

The current campaign, however, is not just yet another attempt at laying the blame at somebody else's door for the use of this type of weapons of mass destruction in Angola.

It is not by chance that it has been launched at a time when work on a convention on full ban on and on the elimination of chemical weapons is being finalized in Geneva. This campaign, along with the start of the production of binary chemical weapons in the United States, appears to be none other than a desire by certain circles to hinder the elaboration and adoption of such a convention.

Senegalese Officials Receive Ryuytel Delegation

LD022324 Moscow TASS in English 2257 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Dakar February 3 TASS—The Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Arnold Ryutel, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was on a stopover in Dakar enroute from Ghana to the republic of Cape Verde, on Tuesday was received here by A. Mbore Diane, first vice-president of Senegal's National Assembly. The Soviet parliamentarians also met and talked with I.M. Wane, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Senegalese parliament.

On the same day, the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet left for Praia, capital of Cape Verde.

Ugandan Cooperatives Delegation Visits Moscow

EA030932 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] A delegation of Ugandan cooperators headed by the deputy minister of cooperatives and marketing, Mr Kweronda Ruhemba, has arrived in Moscow for a 1-week visit at the invitation of the Central Union of Consumer Societies of the Soviet Union.

They have already visited the Lenin Museum and the Consumer Cooperative Pavillion at the Soviet Exhibition of National Economic Achievements. They have also held the first round of talks with top executives of the Soviet Central Union of Consumer Societies and a meeting with the deputy chairman of the union, Mr (Vladimir Rakeskiy).

The head of the delegation, Mr Kweronda Rhemba, said the prime air of the visit is to learn from the experience of the work of consumer cooperatives in the Soviet Union and to outline possible areas and prospects of cooperation with their Soviet colleagues.

They left Moscow today for Uzbekistan Republic in the Soviet Central Asia.

Negotiations with Soviet officials will be continued when they return to Moscow. It is planned to sign an agreement on collaboration between the cooperatives of Uganda and the Soviet Union.

East Europe

Jakes Replaces Husak as National Front Chairman

LD031838 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Prague February 3 TASS—Tasks of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for the further deepening of socialist democracy and speeding up of the economic and social development of the society have been discussed at a joint meeting of the Central Committees of the National Front of Czechoslovakia, of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic that opened in Prague today.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milos Jakes, President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Gustav Husak, Chairman of the Government of Czechoslovakia Lubomir Strougal, other Czechoslovak leaders take part in the meeting.

Organisational matters have been discussed by the meeting.

The Central Committee of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic granted Gustav Husak's request that he be relieved of the duties of member of the Presidium and chairman of the Central Committee of the National Front of Czechoslovakia. At the proposal of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the National Front of Czechoslovakia Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, has been unanimously elected member of the Presidium and chairman of the Central Committee of the National Front of Czechoslovakia. The resolution adopted highly assessed Gustav Husak's activity and his services in the implementation of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, of the struggle for the cause of the working class and all the working people, his loyalty to durable friendship and allied relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Jindrich Polednik delivered a report at the meeting. He noted, specifically, that the experience acquired by the National Front during the implementation of the decisions of the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia confirms that the strategy of the acceleration of the development of society on the basis of restructuring and deepening of socialist democracy meets objective needs and vital interests of the working people.

"When we dwell on democratization, on the striving to conduct an open and honest dialogue, this does not mean that we open the door to anti-socialist forces and give room for the activity of political opposition," said the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. "In formulating socio-political foundations of the acceleration of society's development in the quest of the further roads of democratisation, we are firmly on the basis of socialist principles, on the platform of the National Front in which the Communist Party plays the leading role. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Dwelling on international problems, Jindrich Polednik noted that the entire Czechoslovak people welcomed and expressed complete support for the results of the Soviet-American summit in Washington and the Treaty between the USSR and the USA on the Elimination of the Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.

"Our alliance with the USSR and other socialist countries, peaceful foreign policy are supported by the entire people and are at the basis of the activity of the National Front. Czechoslovakia will continue developing a dialogue with all progressive forces striving to avert war and to consolidate peace. This suits in full measure the interests of our people," said the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

FRG 'Hostile Campaign' Against GDR Viewed

LD031646 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1547 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 3 Feb (TASS)— TASS correspondents Yuriy Borisov and Aleksey Korinenko report:

A noisy hostile campaign against the GDR has recently been unleashed by certain political circles and mass media of the FRG and West Berlin. The grounds for this were provided by the incident that took place in Berlin on 17 January during the traditional demonstration of the capital's working people in memory of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. It would be more correct to

say that this was not an incident, but a premeditated provocation by a group of people, who by violating public order attempted to disturb the demonstration.

At issue are basically the renegades, who for a long time have not been hiding their hostile attitude toward the socialist German state. The roles in this provocative spectacle have been allocated in advance. Film crews from FRG television and correspondents from the FRG and West Berlin did not turn up at the scene of the event clearly just by chance. It is absolutely obvious that they were notified in advance about the action, which was preplanned.

When the competent GDR organs restored order and those guilty of disrupting it were brought to account, a malicious campaign against the GDR was launched in the FRG and West Berlin. The GDR was accused of violating human rights and democracy. Meanwhile, as the GDR press has reported, in the course of the investigation, it became clear that many of the detained "fighters for civil rights" were closely linked with the Western special services and their activity was directed from West Berlin. Thus, this much resorted to device whereby unlawful actions by certain people are depicted as "the struggle for civil rights" was used. False upholders of democracy in the West are demanding for all intents and purposes that the GDR violate its own laws.

The question arises as to why this provocative venture was undertaken right now. Evidently some people in the FRG and West Berlin do not like the process of relaxation in international tension that has begun, particularly after the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty to scrap intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. These circles are patently worried by the increase in the international authority of the GDR and its consistent struggle to strengthen international security and normalize the situation on the European Continent. The organizers of this hostile furor against the GDR will hardly succeed in putting a brake on this process, however.

Gwiazda on Reforms, 'Decisive' USSR Support

LD032332 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1950 GMT 3 Feb 88

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valery Korzin; Gwiazda in Polish with superimposed Russian translation]

[Text] You know, of course, comrades, that the second phase of economic reforms is presently under way in Poland. The idea behind this, like the idea behind all economic transformations, both in our country and other socialist countries, is primarily to make the economy more efficiently run, to bring into correlation real expenditure on labor and pay for labor, and to create conditions for the development of initiative and enterprise. Well, this is not at all a simple process. You know, of course, that fairly recently a nationwide referendum was held in Poland concerning economic reform and the pace of its development.

Our correspondent (Sergey Rybin) interviewed Wladyslaw Gwiazda, Poland's permanent representative in CEMA and minister for foreign economic cooperation, about certain aspects of economic reform in Poland.

[Begin recording] [Rybin] The reform of prices has recently been announced in Poland. What are the aims of this?

[Gwiazda] The main one is to improve the price structure so that prices correspondent to costs, and this, in turn, should be conducive to getting rid of those shortcomings that still exist. Moreover, the reform will make it possible to sharply improve the quality of industrial output and goods, to create conditions for genuine financial autonomy at the enterprises.

[Rybin] How has the decision to reform prices been received in Poland?

[Gwiazda] An increase in prices has never yet aroused enthusiasm anywhere. It will be no secret to anyone if I say this decision has been received badly, but with understanding.

[Rybin] The reform of the economy in Poland presupposes a reduction in the management structure and a reduction in expenditure on maintaining it. What difficulties are you coming up against here?

[Gwiazda] As for reducing the administrative structure in the center, to be honest, we have adopted radical measures but we see no particular difficulties. Of course, complications arise with placing people in jobs and with the fact that their lives are changing completely, with people's adaption to other work. We have undertaken this to optimize and refine economic relations, to make the ministries function more precisely and efficiently. Another aim was to give labor collectives the opportunity of working independently, with initiative, without unnecessary interference in their affairs, that is, without being managed from the ministerial level.

[Rybin] To what extent will development of economic cooperation with the Soviet Union help Poland to resolve its economic problems, in your view?

[Gwiazda] That is a very broad question, but, to highlight the most important thing I would say this: Even at the most difficult time for us, I mean the start of the 1980's, and generally throughout all the history of our relations since World War II, we have always been able to count firmly upon the support and assistance of the Soviet Union. This is of immense importance to us. Indeed, our trade turnover with the USSR is one-third of Poland's entire foreign trade. Of late, our ties have been

developing very effectively, particularly direct ties between our enterprises. There are now more than 300 such enterprises, and I think that within a short time this will become the most dynamic and efficient sector in our cooperation. In other words, coooperation with the Soviet Union is of decisive importance for Poland's national economy. [end recording]

Polish Politburo Cites Important Tasks

PM031515 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Jan 88 p 3

[TASS report: "Session of PZPR Central Committee Politburo"]

[Text] Warsaw, 28 Jan—A report published here on the latest PZPR Central Committee Politburo session states that in the past year a high level of cooperation between Poland and the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries was achieved. The development of interparty ties between the PZPR and the CPSU was marked by particular dynamism. The Declaration on Soviet-Polish Cooperation in the Sphere of Ideology, Science, and Culture signed by the leaders of the two parties, M.S. Gorbachev and W. Jaruzelski, was particularly significant for the expansion of this cooperation.

Approving the key tasks of Polish foreign policy, the PZPR Central Committee Politburo stressed that, as a result of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, 1988 should bring positive changes in international relations. This is creating more favorable external conditions for implementing reforms in the country's socioeconomic life and for the success of Poland's efforts in the name of peace, security, and the development of international cooperation.

The PZPR Central Committee Politburo focused its attention on the necessity of significantly expanding comprehensive relations with the USSR and other socialist countries, and improving the mechanisms of political and economic cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Pact Organization and CEMA.

In the sphere of developing economic relations with the socialist countries the PZPR Central Committee Politburo cited as the most important tasks the growth of trade turnover, the expansion of economic, scientific, and technical ties and developing new forms of joint activity in these spheres, the acceleration of the processes of integration within the CEMA framework, and the improvement of the coordination of planning as the basic mechanism for implementing these aims. The changes being introduced in the mechanism for plan coordination in 1988 must promote an increase in its efficiency.

The session evaluated the implementation of joint economic initiatives with the CEMA countries. The particular significance of fully implementing the decisions of the CEMA session's 43d meeting concerning structural changes and restructuring the socialist countries' integration mechanisms was stressed.

U.S. Agency Overstates Polish Defense Budget

PM041203 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Provocateurs Got It Wrong"]

[Text] Warsaw, 26 Jan—Poland's ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI has exposed the close cooperation between bourgeois news media in misleading public opinion and unscrupulously falsifying facts.

The mechanism for the dissemination of lies operates as follows, the organ of the Polish Defense Ministry writes. The Paris-published journal KONTAKT [Polish emigre publication] alleged that the Polish military budget totals $12.6 billion. Radio Free Europe immediately picked up this "sensational report." The speed with which this was done is on the whole understandable: The journal and the radio mouthpiece share the same hatred of the socialist world and hence also a common aim—systematically and at the behest of others "evoking the specter" of the socialist states' mythical military superiority over the West. This time, too, the order came from across the ocean and was backed up with appropriate background information—a report by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency "analyzing" the defense expenditure of Poland and other socialist countries. Poland "rates" highest in this report—$12.6 billion. This is double the figure cited in the same context by the London International Institute of Strategic Studies, and four times the figure cited by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Well, if you want to calculate, you should at least try to get your sums right. The U.S. agency does the sums in its own way, juggling with figures.

They wanted to kill two birds with one stone, ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI writes: By using a "slightly adjusted" zloty rate (in actual fact overstated by a factor of 15 with respect to the dollar), they "increased" the share of the military budget in Poland's national income, which the U.S. agency calculates in...dollars. What does it matter that the Polish Main Statistical Administration's figures are quite different? As long as the report sounds interesting and sensational. The result achieved, however, was quite the reverse: The authors of the report fell flat on their faces, which even their fellow falsifiers could not help noticing. A number of Western publications and radio stations had to admit that the U.S. agency had gone too far.

No Limit to 'Antisocialist' Interference

LD031419 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] In the process of democratization of social and political life in Poland, the reforms in the economy attract the attention of both friends and foes of the Poles.

If the first category seeks to view those changes objectively and with understanding, the second tries to upset that process by any means at its disposal. There are many who are willing to offer their advice on that account, and they are found most often in the studios of western radio stations broadcasting to Poland. The interference in the internal affairs of the republic does not, however, limit itself to mere suggestions from abroad, or to be more exact, to disinformation and instigation. Vasiliy Lesovik, our correspondent in Warsaw, reports on the activities of the antisocialist underground:

[Lesovik] Last fall, Polish state security organs in Gdansk detained (?red-handed) one Krzysztof Szymanski. A trailer was delivered to him from Sweden, loaded with various consumer goods, including refrigerators. The spaces in the walls of those refrigerators were professionally—to a highly technical level—stuffed with paralyzing gas containers, cattle prods, gas pistols which can easily be converted to conventional firearms, the radio and television monitoring devices, telescopic sights, and false documents. There can be no doubt about the destination of this equipment: attempts to resuscitate the so-called underground structures of the former Solidarity (?are varied). The further afield in the rubbish heap of history that Polish society moves fragments of those structures, the more fuss is made by certain circles in the west, to stand them up on their all-too-unsure feet and to edge them to action.

Another such attempt has given rise to a scandal. Forces made their appearance at the U.S. Congress who managed to pull through the bill on financing the renegades in Poland. The establishment of the fund, as seen by the benefactors, is to prove to the whole world that the group of political bankrupts enjoys the support of a certain part of Polish society.

But with this fund, both its founders and its recipients found themselves in a mess, to put it mildly. Emigre leaders sitting in their West European offices quarelled with their agents inside the country when trying to divide the bribe. Incidentally, the very fact of the bribe showed all too clearly whose silver pieces keep the Judases going. Some figures of the former Solidarity, including Walesa, are very reluctant to admit this, at least not publicly.

Being aware of their degradation, and of their alienation from the society, the underground seeks opportunities to stage antisocialists shows, meant primarily for the benefit of their western benefactors. Such was the case during last year's papal visit to Poland, as well as during the recent visit by U.S. Vice President George Bush.

[Fedorov] Such are the methods used by the extremists in an attempt to create the impression of a powerful opposition and of a broad wave of protests about which the west is so fond of writing. They fail, however, to achieve their goals. Instead of a wave, they only have, speaking figuratively, a ripple. The overwhelming majority of Poles do not support the instigators, for they have more important tasks at present, namely, improving political life, democracy, and the economic situation in their country.

West Europe

Gorbachev Sends Message to Maltese Peace Group

LD031755 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1702 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Valletta, 3 Feb (TASS)—On 2 February, a meeting was held in the USSR Embassy with leaders and activists of the Maltese pacifist organization Peace Workshop. An oral message from M.S. Gorbachev, addressed to those taking part in a mass meeting devoted to the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit, was conveyed to them in a ceremonial atmosphere.

Father D. Mintoff, the organization's director, expressed sincere gratitude to the Soviet leader for his attention and warm wishes. He stressed that Peace Workshop and the country's progressive public support the Soviet Union's efforts to create a nonnuclear world. The ceremony was attended by members of parliament, representatives of Malta's Foreign Ministry and various public organizations, and the mass media.

Bavaria's Strauss Visit to Africa Assailed

LD021557 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 2 (TASS)—The outcome of Franz-Josef Strauss' visit to Mozambique remains to be seen.

What however, is clear to the ANC and the rest of the mass democratic movement in South Africa, is that Franz-Josef Strauss can never be an honest broker in the southern African conflict, says the statement of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa here.

His utterances and actions during his recent tour of this region have merely serve to underscore his consistent stance as a firm ally and a relentless supporter of racist South Africa.

Strauss' expressed sympathies with the racist Pretoria regime and his deep regret over the concerted action by the international community demonstrate not only his gross insensitivity to the sufferings of the millions of peoples of southern Africa but also serve to portray him as a co-conspirator in these crimes against humanity perpetrated by the apartheid regime.

His nobbing with Bantustan puppets, as well as his impassioned pleas for the recognition by the world community of the constitutional monstrosities that Bantustans are, make him not only culpable in the fragmentation of our country but also places him in direct conflict with the resolutions of the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, the U.N. General Assembly, and the U.N.

Security Council, which have repeatedly called for majority rule on the basis of universal suffrage in a democratic and unfragmented South Africa.

His wining and dining with bandit leader Jonas Savimbi, not only adds salt to the wounds of the thousands of people who have suffered the barbarism of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and such like terrorists, but also raises a new questions about his own complicity in such terror acts.

The question that remains to be answered therefore is why is Strauss coming with this call at this time?

Is it a coincidence that his visit was timed to take place at the time when the Frontline States foreign ministers were meeting their Nordic counterparts in Arusha to address the question of strengthening action against apartheid? Is it also accidental that his visit takes place shortly before the meeting of the commonwealth foreign ministers committee on southern Africa convenes in Lusaka to consider action to be undertaken by the commonwealth in the furtherance of the objectives adopted in Vancouver?

The conclusion is inescapable that Strauss' visit to southern Africa and in particular his call for an international conference are threadbare and futile manoeuvres to salvage the apartheid regime from the onslaught of intensified sanctions.

Swedish Riksdag on INF Treaty, Baltic Agreement
LD031844 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Stockholm February 3 TASS—The Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles was positively assessed in the general political debates that opened in the Swedish Riksdag (parliament) today.

This treaty is an event of historic importance, chairman of the Left Party—Communists of Sweden Lars Werner emphasized in his speech. Even though the treaty applies to just a few percent of the arsenals of nuclear weapons existing in the world, it means an important breakthrough, since intermediate-range nuclear missiles are not just restricted or reduced but actually eliminated in Europe. At the same time, Lars Werner said, many tasks remain to be solved on the road to curbing the arms race. The peaceful internaitonal public opinion in which nonaligned countries play an important role should advance demands above all to leading powers to end all nuclear testing and eliminate long-range nuclear weapons and reduce conventional armed forces and armaments. Lars Werner also declared for the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone in the north of Europe.

Concrete results in the area of disarmament were achieved last year, said chairman of the Centre Party Olof Johansson. The Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles shows that arrangement on questions of disarmament and security building in the world can be achieved. The public opinion of the whole world declaring against the arms race has played an important role in the fact that the treaty has been signed. At the same time, above all directly between great powers, talks leading to the creation of the atmosphere of confidence.

The leader of the Centre Party expressed satisfaction with an intergovernmental Soviet-Swedish agreement on the principles of the delimitation of expanses of the Baltic Sea signed during a recent official visit of Chairman of the USSR Council of Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov to Sweden. This means that a complex matter which was the subject of bilateral talks over a long time has now been resolved. This is of much importance for Sweden from the viewpoint of political security.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With British Airways
LD031851 Moscow TASS in English 1659 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] London February 3 TASS—TASS correspondent Igor Peskov reports:

A memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the British Airways Company and the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation has been signed in the British capital.

The document envisages wider British-Soviet cooperation in the field of air transportation and mutual technical assistance during the flights of the two air companies' airliners over the territories of the Soviet Union and Britain as well as during their landings at the two countries' airports.

"The signing of the memorandum has been timed for the 30th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on the establishment of air service between London and Moscow", Aleksander Volkov, minister of civil aviation of the USSR, who signed the document for the Soviet side, pointed out in an interview with the TASS correspondent.

"Soviet-British cooperation in the field of air transportation", he said, "continuously gains in scope. Last year was a record one for the scope of passenger transportation along the Moscow-London route. More than 170,000 people engaged the services of Aeroflot and British Air companies. A new airline, Moscow-Manchester, was inaugurated".

"However", the minister emphasized, "the increase in the transportation of cargoes and passengers between our two countries raises the question of bringing into operation up-to-date aircraft. This applies, first of all, to wide-body planes. Experts are now looking into technical details of using IL-96 Aerobuses along the London-Moscow. Tokyo route and of similar types of planes use by the British Airways Company. In general, a joint utilisation of the trans-Siberian airway linking Europe with Japan is a promising area of our cooperation".

"Already now we grant the right to British planes to fly over the territory of the Soviet Union on their way to Japan, which considerably saves time and reduces expenses. This is also of benefit to the Soviet side which, in exchange, receives additional services at British airports and in British air space. Subsequently we are planning to increase the frequency of flights along this route, those of Soviet airliners as well", Aleksander Volkov pointed out.

Briefs

Legal Cooperation with Canada

Moscow February 3 TASS—"There can be no pardon for Nazi butchers. The problem of the inevitability of retribution for the crimes committed by them is of everlasting importance." This is the conclusion drawn by the lawyers of the Soviet Union and Canada. This provision underlies a memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the procurator's office of the USSR and the Canadian Ministry of Justice on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The document signed here today is a corollary of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Canada. It accords with the existing practice of cooperation in this category of cases between the procurator's office and the judicial bodies of the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and a number of other countries. [Excerpt] [*Moscow Tass in English 1834 GMT 3 Feb 88 LD*]

Latin America & Caribbean

U.S. Conducts 'Smear Campaign' Against Noriega

LD041132 Moscow TASS in English 1057 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Madrid February 4 TASS—The State General Council of Panama has criticized imperialist interference in Panamanian affairs, EFE News Agency reported.

The council includes representatives of the government, the armed forces and the National Democratic Union, a bloc of parties.

The council said in a statement that some circles abroad and inside Panama, which are interested in frustrating the U.S.-Panamian treaties for the ocean-to-ocean canal to be placed under Panama's sovereignty [illegible] century's end, are seeking to destabilize the situation there and discredit the Panamanian leadership, first of all General Manuel Noriega, commander-in-chief of the National Defense Forces.

The statement said that these circles, using the services of some traitors and turncoats, have been resorting to slander, blackmail and intimidation.

The democratization process in Panama, it added, should be effected by Panamanians themselves, without any outside interference. The council voiced complete support for President Eric Delvalle and for Noriega who has lately been a target of provocations and attacks on the part of some reactionary U.S. politicians, the U.S. mass media and the U.S.-controlled right-wing Panamanian opposition.

The Panama city-based newspaper LA STRELLA DE PANAM denounced the smear campaign engineered in the United States to besmirch the Panamanian leadership, in particular Noriega.

The paper ridiculed attempts made in the United States to accuse him of connections with the drug mafia as a "circus" and pointed to the clearly artificial nature of the outcry against him.

Observers say the U.S.-staged-managed clamorous campaign against Noriega reflects Washington's desire to discredit the current Panamanian leadership so as to install political puppets in power, who would be prepared to follow instructions from the United States without a murmur.

Haitian People 'Repudiate' Election, Regime

PM041429 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent A. Kamorin dispatch under "We Report the Details" rubric: "Results Announced. What Next?"]

[Text] Havana—As expected, following the week-long counting of votes after the 17 January "general election," Leslie Manigat, well known in this country as "Washington's candidate," has been proclaimed Haiti's president.

Journalists in Port-au-Prince ironically called the work of the counting commission a "slowness record." The results of the voting, in which approximately 10 percent of the electorate took part, could have been published more speedily, especially since there was no special need for a count—it was already quite obvious on 17 January that General Namphy's ruling junta had done everything necessary for Leslie Manigat to win. The new president polled 50.39 percent of the votes actually cast, which means that approximately 5 percent of Haitians voted for him despite the threats, bribery, and blackmail which accompanied that performance. [passage omitted]

L. Manigat's first statements as president-elect sounded quite paradoxical: He acknowledged that he was aware how unpopular his candidacy was among Haitians, but he promised to elaborate a program of reforms designed to pull the country out of its economic and social impasse.

I asked Anna Kovak, HAITI PROGRESS correspondent, to comment on the election results.

The proclamation of L. Manigat as president has surprised no one, and nothing has changed in Haiti. I must say that until recently he was not the favorite of the military who rule the country. However, his candidacy was too tempting for the United States, which persuaded the generals of the future head of state's loyalty. Before the 7 February inauguration ceremony, L. Manigat will probably have to demonstrate great art in political maneuvering in order to form a government. Prior to the announcement of the "poll" result, he suggested to the leading opposition forces which were boycotting the election that they should collaborate. Marc Bazin and other well-known politicians were offered ministerial portfolios. Judging by their statements, some of them are vacillating. So it is difficult to guess how this game will end. One thing can confidently be said: All this has no bearing on genuine democratization in the country.

Influential public forces in Haiti hold the same opinion. Bishop Gayot, head of the All-Haitian Bishops' Conference, has stated: "We cannot remain silent in the face of such a desperate situation. The people have repudiated this election, and they repudiate this dictatorship."

Manigat Press Conference Reported

LD040915 Moscow TASS in English 0742 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Havana February 4 TASS—Haiti's new President Leslie Manigat, whom the military regime announced winner at the January 17 election, stated his intention to stay in his post for all five years. Speaking at a press conference in Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, he rejected the demands by the Haitian opposition and some foreign governments, which claim that less than 10 per cent of the population turned up for the January 17 election, that their results were rigged up and, consequently, insisted that new elections be held under international control.

Manigat made it clear that the representatives of the military regime, headed by General Namphy, who staged the election farce, will become members of the future government of Haiti. He demanded that the opposition exercise self-discipline and expressed his dissatisfaction with the press coverage of the events in the country.

On the same day members of the delegation of the permanent conference of Latin American political parties spoke at the press conference in Port-au-Prince. Luis Gomez, deputy speaker of Panama's Legislative Assembly, who headed the delegation, said that the January 17 election, which brought Manigat to power, were marked by cheating and intimidation of voters. They have no legal force in the eyes of the people, he stressed. The elections held on November 29 last year, which were called off as a result of violence, would have been won by one of the four opposition leaders which made the military stage a virtual coup.

Ortega Interview With Italian Papers Cited

LD031545 Moscow TASS in English 1521 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Rome February 3 (TASS)—As a result of the interventionalist policy pursued by the USA against sovereign Nicaragua, the latter has sustained economic damage worth more than 1.6 billion dollars. The statement to this effect was made by President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua in an interview with the Italian newspapers L'UNITA and PAESE SERA. Last year alone, he said, the spendings directly involved in the war in Nicaragua reached 370 million dollars. On top of that, many farm cooperatives have been destroyed as a result of the incursions by the contras, heavy damage has been done to public transport.

Speaking on the problem of settlement of the crisis in Central American, the president noted that the countries of the region very much wished for its peaceful settlement under the Guatemala accords which were signed by the five presidents of the Central American countries in August last year. Yet now they have to wage a titanic struggle in order to overcome the powerful pressure from the USA felt in individual countries, on the part of right-wing paramilitary groups, extremists among the armed forces who are out to frustrate the peace plan.

The church could contribute even more actively to implementing that plan, Ortega said. This was pointed out during the meeting in the Vatican with Pope John Paul the Second. The meeting was a positive one, the Nicaraguan leader stressed. The head of the Roman Catholic Church promised support for reconciliation in our region.

There is growing dissatisfaction in Nicaragua with the interference of the United States, the president noted. Yet everybody can clearly see the difference between the policy of the U.S. Administration and the stand of the American people. Annually thousands of volunteers come to Nicaragua from the USA and they are to us true representatives of their people, ever more Americans in the USA itself show solidarity with the homeland of Sandino.

Touching upon the talks with the contra leaders held by the Government of Nicaragua, Ortega noted that they had become possible due to the new situation, which emerged in the region. The presidents of the Central American nations have committed themselves to overcoming all disputable issues standing in the way to peace. There is a real opportunity for everybody to make jointly a step towards genuine reconciliation.

Nicaragua Institutes Energy Saving Measures

LD021119 Moscow TASS in English 1055 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Managua February 2 (TASS)—The Nicaraguan Government has taken emergency measures to save electricity in connection with the continuing energy

crisis caused by acts of subversion by the contras in the north of the country and the acute shortage of fuel. A press conference here was told this by Vice President of Nicaragua Sergio Ramirez. In order to save electricity the working day at industrial enterprises and government offices is being cut. Export-oriented branches of the economy and enterprises of the defense industry will be given priority in power supply.

Political & Social

CC Plenum Reportedly to Meet 18-19 Feb

OW041311 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The planned Moscow visit by Takako Doi, chairwoman of the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party, originally scheduled to begin on February 17, has been postponed to early May or later, JSP sources said Thursday.

Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo Nikolay N. Solovyev called on her at the JSP headquarters Thursday afternoon and requested the rescheduling because Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has to attend a plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party on February 18-19, the sources said.

Moscow is ready to reschedule a meeting between Doi and Gorbachev for May 6, the ambassador said.

Doi accepted the request for postponement and replied she would study the new Soviet offer, the JSP sources said.

According to Solovyev, the Soviet Communist Party will hold a National Party Congress from June 28 for the first time in about 50 years and the Central Committee plenary session has been scheduled for mid-February prior to the National Congress.

Originally, the JSP leader was to visit Moscow last December. But she had to postpone the visit because of the Washington summit between Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan and reschedule it to later this month.

Solovyev also told Doi that the Soviet party will send a delegation to an international symposium against nuclear weapons and for disarmament in the Asia-Pacific region which the JSP plans to sponsor around this summer, the sources said.

More on Nuclear Accident False Alarm

IAEA: Accident Reports False

DW031849 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Announcer-read report]

[text] For 1 hour today reports on a new nuclear accident in the USSR caused some excitement. Then Moscow and Vienna sounded the all-clear signal. The Soviet Foreign Ministry clearly stated that such reports are wrong. The Vienna IAEA stated that it had tested its early-waring system by exchanging messages with other international agencies. During the message exchanges, the term radioactive accident was used several times. Obviously, that was why there were rumors on a nuclear accident, it said.

IAEA Denies Responsibility

AU031813 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1740 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow/London/Vienna—Rumors about a new nuclear accident in the Soviet Union have caused a great deal of excitement today. The IAEA has no confirmation of an accident but it monitors radiation levels to detect possible increases.

A spokesman for the IAEA has denied that test telegrams addressed to the World Meteorological Organization in London might have triggered the rumor. The last telex of this kind, designed to test the new early warning system, was sent out a week ago. The rumors first appeared on the London Exchange. The Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied the reports.

Gremitskikh: Report 'Fabricated'

LD032007 Prague CTK in English 1811 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow Feb 3 (CTK correspondent)—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied Western news agency reports that a nuclear power plant accident had occurred on the territory of the Soviet Union.

First Deputy Head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Administration Yuriy Gremitskikh told CTK's Moscow correspondent that according to information from the main controller of the Soviet Ministry of Nuclear Power no nuclear accident had taken place on Soviet territory. All information concerning an "accident in a Soviet nuclear power station" is fabricated, Yuriy Gremitskikh stressed.

Moscow Comments on Reports

LD032343 Moscow World Service in English 0710 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Station Observer Commentary]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, rumours about a nuclear accident in the USSR have been officially refuted. Here's a commentary by our observer:

Western allegations about an accident at a Soviet nuclear power plant have been immediately refuted both in the USSR and by competent people in other countries.

The Soviet news agency TASS with reference to the Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation of the USSR has published a report stressing that no accident at any nuclear power station in the country has occurred. All these stations operate smoothly and all other reports on this score are groundless.

The scientific director of the Swedish Institute for Protection against Radiation Gunnar Bengtsson has dismissed rumours about a nuclear accident in the USSR as totally false.

In the United States, a spokesman for the White House, Marlin Fitzwater, has said there is no evidence of any accident. It is believed that the falsehood was prompted by a telecommunications testing by the International Atomic Energy Agency for urgent notification of a nuclear accident.

However, a representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency has reported that in the course of the checkups—which, incidentally, were conducted last week—the words "nuclear accident" for the Soviet Union were not used.

This sensational but irresponsible news on a nuclear accident in the USSR was reported, according to REUTER, by the Swedish news agency TT [Tidningarnas Telegrambyra] and in this TT proved faster than all its competitors. But the falsehood was then spontaneously picked up by other Western news media. This confirms their desire to use any chance to cast a shadow on the state of affairs in the Soviet Union and, in this way, undermine the world public interest in the process of restructuring in the USSR.

Swedish Report on Accident

For information on Stockholm Domestic's report on the rumored nuclear accident, including an interview with the head of the Swedish Radiation Protection Institute, please see the Nordic Countries section of the 4 February West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Comparison of Party Resolution on Kiev Gorkom

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian on 31 January carries on pages 1-2 "The CPSU Central Committee Decision on the Work of Kiev City Party Organization in Implementing the 27th CPSU Congress Decisions." This has been compared with the Moscow PRAVDA Russian version published in the 2 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp 55-57, revealing the following variation:

Page 55, column two, paragraph three, last sentence, reads ...at the gorispolkom.

The city party organization is timid in adopting new attitudes in economic management. The party and economic organs have failed to ensure that enterprises are thoroughly and in advance prepared for switching over to full economic accountability and self-financing. As a result of this, some of them proved to be inadequately prepared for work under the new conditions, and are slow in remedying the situation. Intraplant economic accountability and team contracting are being applied in an unsatisfactory manner, and economic education has not been widely developed. (supplying additional paragraph)

Gromyko Chairs Commission on Crimean Tatars

LD041024 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—The state commission dealing with the issue of Crimean Tatars at a meeting in the Kremlin chaired by Andrey Gromyko has discussed the implementation of the commission's recommendations on the fuller satisfaction of social and cultural needs of the Crimean Tatars.

It was noted that central and local government bodies lately adopted additional measures for creating conditions for the study by the Tatars of their native tongue.

From this academic year, instruction in the language of the Crimean Tatars was started in a number of schools of the Krasnodar territory, the Crimean and other regions.

The demand for periodicals and books was being met more fully. It was planned to increase the publication of works, including by national authors, and the time of radio and television broadcasting in Tatar.

Questions of promoting culture and arts among the Crimean Tatars were being handled.

The commission recommended corresponding ministries and departments, local party and government bodies to carry out this work on the basis of consideration for the wishes expressed by the citizens.

The commission examined the implementation of measures directed at rectifying the situation with employment of Tatars and removing unjustified obstacles to their change of residence.

It noted that the USSR Council of Ministers specified the order of residence registration for citizens of all nationalities arriving for permanent sojourn in resort areas and adjoining regions of the Krasnodar territory and the Crimean region and that terms of residence registration in all resort areas of the country had been defined more clearly.

The commission received letters and messages containing readers' views and proposals concerning the issue under consideration.

The character of these letters and facts cited in them attest to the need for the further development of internationalist and patriotic education of the population and enhancement of the culture of relationship among ethnic groups.

The commission issued corresponding instructions to party and local government bodies.

Three Million To Lose Jobs By 1990

LD032349 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] A bulletin on vacancies for office workers has begun to be published in Moscow. Today's issue lists 9,000 vacant jobs. There are vacancies for architects, designers, engineers and other professionals. The State Committee for Employment has launched (?this) publication in the wake of the current reduction of the excessive managerial staff. Some 3 million people are to be made redundant in the USSR by 1990. However, a committee spokesman has stressed, there will be full employment in the country [words indistinct]. Measures have been mapped out to enhance the guarantees of the social security of all (?the relieved) workers.

Chazov Interviewed on AIDS Measures

PM031738 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 29 Jan 88 p 17

["Da. Mas." interview with Soviet Health Minister Yevgeniy Chazov in London; date not given]

[Excerpt] London—[passage omitted][Interviewer] Minister Chazov, what is the situation really like in the Soviet Union?

[Chazov] I must make this clear right away. Officially we have only two cases of AIDS, that is, people who are actually ill. One is a Soviet citizen, the other is French. With regard to HIV, that is, the intermediate stage of the virus, the number of cases could be greater and is approximately 33.

[Interviewer] The Soviet Union has asserted a very tough stance with respect to African students. Why?

[Chazov] We have asserted what you call a tough stance with respect to not only Africans but all foreigners. We have equipped ourselves with special regulations. Anyone coming to the USSR for more than 3 months must hold a health certificate declaring him to be seronegative. We are doing the same with Soviet citizens, however. We have screened over a million people and discovered 33 cases of the virus, that is, seropositive cases.

[Interviewer] What is the USSR's attitude toward the patient?

[Chazov] Any foreigner having the virus must leave the country.

[Interviewer] You described AIDS as the sickness of decadence. Is this true?

[Chazov] No, I never said any such thing. I am a medic, a scientist. I regard the patient as such, and that is that.

[Interviewer] Neverthelesss you yourself admit that your country is more in favor of coercive measures.

[Chazov] In a way, yes. If we force foreign AIDS sufferers to leave the country it is a preventive measure. They could be dangerous to many other people. As things stand, we lack suitable means for treating infected people. All we can do is monitor people constantly and limit sexual relations between seropositive cases.

[Interviewer] Minister, are you sure that the virus was imported?

[Chazov] Definitelty.

[Interviewer] Are you not afraid of being accused of xenophobia?

[Chazov] China too should be accused of xenophobia. Legislation—albeit open to criticism—does exist and it must be implemented. Our aim is to have a medical certificate for every foreigner entering the USSR.

[Interviewer] Were the AIDS cases caused by infected syringes or by homosexual relations?

[Chazov) I do not want to broach a subject involving the moral situation in our country.

[Interviewer] Minister, what is your opinion of the world summit on AIDS?

[Chazov] It was a first important step in a joint battle against the virus.

[Interviewer] Do you have any specific plans and initiatives?

[Chazov] For years we have been conducting cooperation in the health field with a number of African countries and I am sure that this cooperation program will continue. Over the past few days, however, we have drawn up a number of research plans with the French, Germans, and Belgians.

[Interviewer] What hope is there of discovering a vaccine?

[Chazov] Little, at present.

Doctor Rebuts Charges of Psychiatric Abuse

PM261441 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Jan 88 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Honored RSFSR Physician N. Movchan, chief physician at Chelyabinsk Oblast Psychoneurological Hospital No 1, conducted by TASS correspondent Ye. Tkachenko under the headline: "People Are Profiting From Illness. The Background to the Propaganda Uproar Around the 'Fighter For Democracy' From Chelyabinsk"; date of interview not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Chelyabinsk—The Western mass media report that citizen L.G. Ubozhko, a so-called "fighter for democracy" has been allegedly forcibly placed in Chelyabinsk Oblast Psychoneurological Hospital No 1. In this connection a TASS correspondent met with Honored RSFSR Physician N. Movchan, the hospital's senior physician, and asked him a number of questions.

[Tkachenko] Do you have such a patient?

[Movchan] I will start by saying that existing rules for hospitalizing and treating psychiatric patients do not provide for publicly announcing their identity and the precise diagnosis. This has always been a secret which the physician keeps in order that the patient may recover. But since the foreign mass media have not only divulged the identity of citizen Ubozhko who is with us, but are also trying to exploit him as a "fighter for democracy" whose rights have been infringed, I think that I have a right to clarify the situation.

This patient has frequently been in our hospital in recent years for treatment. Ubozhko suffers from a chronic mental illness. For reasons which you will understand I do not have the right to divulge the precise diagnosis but there is no doubt about it.

Our specialists have applied many efforts to return Ubozhko at least to a satisfactory condition, which would enable him to receive treatment at home. Last summer we finally managed to discharge him from hospital. Additionally, the patient was recommended to have his state of health monitored every month in his place of residence. But then he disappeared....

[Tkachenko] What was the reason for hospitalizing Ubozhko this time?

[Movchan] The doctors simply did not recognize their patient when he once again entered our hospital. All our long painstaking work had come to naught, as they say. Ubozhko was terribly debilitated both mentally and physically. He had lost 12kg in weight despite his by no means athletic build. He laughed for no reason, was not aware of his actions, and talked incessantly. According to him, he was on the road for a few months and traveled round approximately 20 cities. He did not sleep nights and amazed everyone with his energy. It was precisely this which caused his exhaustion.

[Tkachenko] What can you say regarding the uproar raised around Ubozhko in the West?

[Movchan] This is all disgraceful but the main thing is that it is inhuman. A man must be treated but they are deliberately distorting the situation by calling a mental patient a "fighter for democracy." And they are making his condition worse. For despite the fact that Ubozhko is in a clinic where a normal atmosphere has been created for him, news of this propaganda row, albeit piecemeal information, certainly, reaches him. He is disturbed and does not sleep nights. This exhausts his nervous system and greatly impedes the normal course of treatment.

[Tkachenko] Do the measures adopted with regard to Ubozhko conform with legislation in force and the Statute on the Terms and Procedures for Providing Psychiatric Aid recently ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium?

[Movchan] Yes, they are in full conformity with the legislation. We always act in strict accordance with Soviet laws. In the 23 years that I have worked in Chelyabinsk hospital there has not been a single case where they were violated.

We are prepared to present any of our patients to competent foreign psychiatrists for examination and I am confident that they will confirm our diagnosis. But I repeat, competent psychiatrists, and not idle minded journalists.

Antipollution Measures in Bashkir ASSR Detailed

PM011519 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 88 Second Edition p 3

[Article under the rubric "After Criticism" by Yu. Sivakov, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry: "'Beyond Charity'"]

[Text] The environmental protection questions in the city of Ufa, which were discussed in the article "Beyond Charity" (PRAVDA, 2 December 1987), were examined in detail by specialists from the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry together with representatives of the USSR Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production and local soviet and party organs making up the RSFSR Council of Ministers commission set up on the instructions of the USSR Council of Ministers.

In the period between 1981 and 1987 the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry spent more than R40 million on carrying out more than

650 nature conservancy measures, including R18.9 million on capital construction. In 1986-87 alone discharges of noxious substances into the atmosphere were reduced by more than 15,000 tonnes, water consumption fell by 7.8 million tonnes, and the amount of sewage by 12.7 million cubic meters. At the same time the plan indicators for the quality of the purification of sewage have not been fully achieved. Although the gross discharge of noxious substances has fallen, the air pollution in terms of a number of chemical constituents in the health protection zone around enterprises still remains high.

With a view to eradicating the negative impact of enterprises' production activity upon the atmosphere the ministry has drawn up and ratified draft norms for maximum permissible discharges. These stipulate specific measures for achieving the normatives in terms of certain constituents by 1991 and in terms of all indicators by 1996. The ministry has ratified the plan for water conservation measures, whose introduction will by 1995 ensure that the discharge of insufficiently purified sewage into bodies of water is stopped and that the norms for maximum permissible effluent discharges are met by the year 2000.

Furthermore, in the period between 1977 and 1985 the ministry handed over to the Bashkir ASSR Council of Ministers more than R38 million in capital investment for the organization of a health protection zone and for the resettlement of villagers from Novaya Aleksandrovka hamlet, while R14.94 million was handed over in 1986-1987 and for the year 1988. It is also planned to hand over funds for subsequent years in order to complete the work to resettle villagers from the health protection zone by 1991.

In December 1987 a USSR Council of Ministers commission comprising representatives of the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry and the Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, together with the Bashkir CPSU Obkom and the Bashkir ASSR Council of Ministers, after making a comprehensive study of the ecological situation in the city of Ufa, supported at a meeting with the city's working people the decision of the third session of the Ufa City Soviet to appeal to the USSR Council of Ministers to remove the site for the construction of a polycarbonate production facility from the territory of Ufa.

Kazakh Central Committee Plenum Held

PM041115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 88 Second Edition p 2

[PRAVDA correspondents G. Dildyayev, T. Yesilbayev dispatch on Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Plenum: "Reality of Change" under rubric "Party Life: Elected Organs' Reports"; passages in brackets provide omitted material from First Edition]

[Text] Alma-Ata—A session of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Bureau was held shortly before the plenum. The members of the Bureau decided to jointly work out and coordinate some assessments and character references to later incorporate them in the accountability report at the plenum. Everyone present had to listen to frank opinions about themselves and many hard words were said. But, as they themselves admit, this exchange of opinions was very useful before the plenum, where they have to give a report on their work.

This is what the plenum participants said to us on the subject:

"This is the first time we have been privy to character assessments of Central Committee Bureau members. The strong points and the weak points of high-ranking personnel were given and we all now have something to think about."

Well, this was, after all, the intention of the Central Committee Bureau, which expected to hear real wishes and sensible advice in response, rather than glib speeches. Its hopes were justified. Not all the speakers managed to completely shake the habit of giving the same old reports of their activities and quoting masses of figures, but on the whole the discussion was interesting and to the point. Following the report by G. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, who talked about Bureau work in leading the restructuring process, many who took part in the ensuing discussion tried to assess the state of affairs and the contribution made by each Bureau member from the standpoint of the high demands made by the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

It was pointed out that good changes are being made to life in the republic and they were rightly linked with the renewal of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee leadership. The fifth Central Committee plenum held more than 1 year ago was a kind of watershed: The restructuring process has noticeably accelerated since then. Both in the report and in the speeches by M. Sagdiyev, Ye. Auyelbekov, and V. Demidenko, first secretaries of the Kokchetav, Kzyl-orda, and Kustanay party obkoms respectively, and others, the following idea was expressed: Restructuring used to be held back by the elite of leading cadres carefully selected for years by the former first secretary of the Central Committee. [This elite fought stubbornly to retain its privileges and threw a monkey wrench into the acceleration mechanism.]

It was precisely this "policy" that led to the displays of nationalism in Alma-Ata in December 1986. This incident could have been prevented. Even before passions reached fever pitch, the Central Committee Bureau suggested that D. Kunayev address the people gathered in the square and explain the political essence of the Fifth Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Plenum decisions to them. He refused, however. Ambition and personal resentment evidently gained the upper hand over common sense and party conscience.

The process of clearing out cadres from the Central Committee and its apparatus resulted in the departure of those who had stood in the way of restructuring and undermined the authority of the republic party organization. [The Central Committee Bureau, whose staff has also recently been considerably renewed, has begun to establish the principles of real collegiality in leadership, an atmosphere of mutual exactingness, and quest for new approaches to the solution of long-standing problems.]

In the past year we Kazakhstan correspondents have had occasion to attend many party meetings and party committee plenums. Assessing the work of their elected organs (which was often found to be unsatisfactory), Communists urged emulation of the Central Committee. This has never happened before. They used to say: The Central Committee gives the instructions; now they say: The Central Committee shows the way. In other words, there has been a sharp change for the better in Communists' attitude in the republic toward their headquarters.

The tangibility and reality of restructuring is reflected in the improvement in food supplies and the shorter queues for housing. The positive changes are making people feel confident: We can, we will! This is particularly important, the speakers noted.

Discussing economic, social, and ideological problems, the plenum participants also voiced their thoughts on the professionalism of the party worker. They emphasized the point that there can be no party worker without a mastery of political methods of leadership. If he does not master these methods, no one should be surprised when people start talking about a secretary of the Central Committee, say, as the "superminister" or the "main works superintendent."

Plenum participants focused their attention on cadre policy. For decades the weeds of protectionism, nepotism, and the omnipotence of old bonds had choked cadres to an appreciable extent. Not every weed has been uprooted. At the beginning of last year, while attempting to normalize the moral and psychological climate in the republic and treat cadres with the greatest possible care, the Central Committee Bureau was in no hurry to rearrange leading personnel. After all, some of them had originally been promoted through knowing the right person and, despite this, were holding posts they did not deserve. Now the plenum has admitted that life has shown this attitude to be a mistake. Not at all because these people are deliberately sabotaging the restructuring process, although this has been known to happen. No, most of them have been objectively unable to work in line with the demands of the time, as they are prevented from doing so by the burden of old stereotypes and obligations to those who wrongly gave them leading posts.

Many of the speakers, particularly M. Mendybayev and V. Anufriyev, first secretaries of the Alma-Ata and Taldy-Kurgan party obkoms, criticized the Central Committee Bureau for inadequate glasnost in cadre promotion. The plenum ordered S. Kubashev, second secretary of the Central Committee, to be more consistent and persistent in eliminating the shortcomings that have built up over the years.

Restructuring is particularly necessary in the ideological sphere. [It is not easy to get rid of the dominant influence of cliches, deformed morality, and defects in inter-nation relations. The habit of creating a facade of well-being and the residual principle of planning the development of the social sphere both take their toll.] The Central Committee Propaganda and Agitation Department is excessively concerned with various forms of research work and, at the same time, does not always react promptly to new problems and phenomena or influence the state of affairs at grassroots level and the restructuring of people's outlook and way of thinking. Having noted the firm character and uncompromising attitude of Central Committee Secretary Z. Kamalidenov—responsible for ideological matters—in the fight against negative developments, the plenum recommended that he show greater flexibility and rely more fully on the achievements of pedagogy and psychology.

The speech by N. Nazarbayev, member of the Central Committee Bureau and chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, was greeted with interest. This interest was not only aroused by his competent survey of the state of the republic's national economy which, in contrast to previous years has developed in the last 2 years in line with the 5-year plan, but also by his analysis of the "adaptability" of economic management methods in the sectors. Assessing the drive and competence of N. Nazarbayev, the plenum demanded that he put more effort into fully and efficiently implementing the economic reform program.

The slow pace at which grain production is being intensified is causing Central Committee members concern. The target of 29-30 million tonnes of grain is still a long way off. E. Gukasov, chairman of the republic's Gosagroprom, who is lacking in initiative and enterprise, must take a considerable part of the blame for this, the speakers said. According to the speakers, the agro-industrial complex has become bogged down in paperwork.

While describing positive changes in the activity of the Central Committee Bureau, the plenum participants also addressed a fair amount of criticism to it. They made the special point that the Central Committee Bureau and its first secretary G. Kolbin spend too much time drawing up various directives and holding numerous conferences.

"Bureau activity," some speakers remarked, "clearly reveals a desire to make provision for everything in advance. Excessive organization sometimes binds the work of party units hand and foot and deprives them of their independence. Every week the Central Committee decides what the obkom and the republic organs should do and how they should do it, and these written instructions are duplicated by telephone, teletype, and selector."

[The fact that there is no reduction in the stream of paperwork sent to party committees from higher organs was also discussed with alarm. Central Committee departments are often too taken up with solving purely economic issues and collecting various statistical data.]

"A considerable number of good resolutions are approved, including at plenums," K. Dzhantasova, a machine operator at the Kazakh Gas Processing Plant in Mangyshlak Oblast, said, "but not only ordinary Communists do not know how to implement them—we Central Committee members do not know either."

["I have been a member of the Central Committee for 2 years now, but the Central Committee departments only remember me just before the next scheduled plenum," these words come from the speech by N. Rusnak, machine operator at the Arys Station Diesel Depot in Chimkent Oblast.]

It will be recalled how 1 year ago a number of "sensible" voices were raised against the idea of sharply increasing the pace of housing construction. The initiative of the best labor collectives and party organizations was supported at the time by the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee. This was the right step to take, plenum participants said. They kept to their word and more people are celebrating housewarmings.

"While confirming our basic hopes and expectations," Gennadiy Vasilyevich Kolbin told us after the plenum was over, "the plenum opened our eyes to a great deal. I am sincerely appreciative of and grateful for all criticism and advice. It will be a great help in our work."

Ukraine Official Instructs Procurators

AU261526 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 20 Jan 88 p 3

[Article by P. Osipenko, Ukrainian SSR procurator: "Strengthening Legality"]

[Excerpts] The restructuring undertaken in all spheres of the country's socioeconomic life calls for promoting democracy, strengthening legality, and observing the principle of social justice. This charges the procuratorship which, in accordance with the USSR Constitution, exerts supreme control over the exact and uniform compliance with the law, with particular responsibility. [passage omitted]

A highly important task facing the procuratorship is to supervise administrative organs and officials in the observance of the law. In many cases, the latter are accountable for mismanagement, embezzlement, bribery, book-padding, failure to deliver products, production of substandard goods, and other breaches of state discipline. Damage from embezzlement in the republic is not decreasing. In the first half of 1987 it amounted to about R10 million just in those cases that were brought to trial. In the last 18 months the courts instituted proceedings against culprits being sued by prosecutors for damage caused by book-padding, substandard production, cattle murrain, and other manifestations of mismanagement for a sum exceeding R27 million.

Kiev Oblast Procurator's Office, for example, revealed gross violations at kolkhozes in the set procedure for the sale of sugar in order to motivate workers engaged in sugar beet growing. In a number of cases, farms sold large amounts of sugar at reduced prices to leading members of executive committees, rayon agro-industrial associations, and other persons who did not belong to kolkhozes. After the procurator's intervention, 37 persons faced disciplinary action or were fined. Similar checkups were made in Vinnitsa, Kirovograd, Poltava, and some other oblasts; measures were taken to compensate for the damage, to punish the culprits, and to put this matter in order. [passage omitted]

At the same time it is to be admitted that many procurators have still failed to reach the proper level in their general supervision and in the efforts to reveal and prevent encroachments upon the people's property. In Kharkov, Lvov, Dnepropetrovsk, and Odessa Oblasts a number of city and rayon procurators react ineffectively to the signs of abuses and infringements, and are slow in taking action against them. Supervision of the observance of the law in the activity of organs that combat the embezzlement of socialist property and speculation is not always sufficiently vigorous and exacting. Very frequently embezzlers are not detected in time, and the struggle against book-padding and eyewash is being waged halfheartedly. [passage omitted]

The eradication of crime, drunkenness, drug addiction, parasitism, and the elimination of the causes of and conditions for criminal acts are crucial questions at present. An analysis makes it possible to conclude that the struggle against these antisocial phenomena has not been waged everywhere. In many oblasts the struggle against moonshining has slackened. [passage omitted]

The responsibility of those working in the procuratorship is growing. They must be absolutely upright, true to principles, and must firmly protect state interests. Steps are now been taken to improve training, the forms and methods of work among cadres, to systematically renew and rejuvenate these cadres, and to provide an effective reserve.

At the same time it is a pity that there are some workers in the procuratorship who misbehave or even commit abuses. Such cases occurred in Poltava, Kharkov, and some other oblasts. They were assessed sharply and in adherence to principles. There must be no room for such people in the organs of the procuratorship. We will continue to struggle resolutely for the purity of the ranks of procuratorship and investigative workers. Irreproachability in discharging official duties and in personal

behavior, a noble party spirit, modesty, honesty, and absolute devotion to the cause of serving the law must be the inalienable qualities of every worker in the organs of the procuratorship.

Film Shows Lithuanian Priest as 'Extremist'

LD011838 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Vilnius February 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Ronaldas Barisas:

The latest work by Lithuanian film-makers, the documentary "Who Are You, Father Svarinskas?", convinces the viewers that the Catholic priest from the Soviet Baltic republic of Lithuania, portrayed as a "prisoner of conscience" in the West, is a political schemer and extremist.

Svarinskas, 63, had been repeatedly warned by the Lithuanian prosecutor's office. In 1983, he was convicted for anti-Soviet activity.

He had for years used the pulpit for slanderous sermons directed against the socialist system. Svarinskas provoked conflicts with local government bodies and then spread fabrications about the "persecution of the Lithuanian Catholic church."

The documentary provides evidence that Svarinskas cooperated after the Second World War with a terrorist gang, kept Nazi books and quoted from them during sermons propagating inhuman ideas.

The filming crew travelled to the priest's former parish, the place where he is serving his term—near the city of Perm in the Urals.

The film-makers interviewed parishioners, persons who were engaged in anti-Soviet activity togehter with Svarinskas. These people denounced Svarinskas' extremism, describing his appeals as false and provocative.

The documentary contains a conversation with Svarinskas, now performing the job of a cook—"not too hard" an occupation as he himself described it.

Time has not changed Svarinskas. He still regards priests, including top hierarchs, who are not engaged in politics as inferior.

Lithuanians Protest U.S. Congress' 'Interfering'

LD040912 Moscow TASS in English 0841 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Vilnius February 4 (TASS)—Some 60,000 letters-protesting attempts by members of U.S. Congress to interfere in Lithuania's domestic affairs have come to the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of this Soviet Baltic republic.

People expressed approval for the November 11, 1987, statement by the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania, which condemned remarks by some American Congressmen unwilling to recognize the fact that the Lithuanian people in 1940 restored the Soviet system of government in their republic.

Three months after the statement was sent to U.S. Congress, there has still been no reply from the latter.

"Let us remind U.S. Congressmen who have lately been flagrantly interfering in the domestic affairs of our republic that Latvia joined the USSR in 1940 of its own free will—in a move meeting the interests of our people," wrote workers from the Vairas bicycle factory in the city of Siauliai.

"The Soviet system of government has given us farmers a possibility to study, choose a job to our liking and enjoy scientific and cultural values," said members of the Krikliniai farming cooperative. "We do not want to return to the past, to misery."

Letters recalled that the Lithuanian people had chosen socialism way back in 1918 and reaffirmed their choice in 1940.

Taking issue with western "advocates of human rights", they recalled also that Soviet power had been proclaimed by the parliament of Lithuania after being elected constitutionally on the basis of general, equal and direct suffrage and secret ballot. A total of 95.5 percent of the voters then gave their voices for the Soviet system of government.

MVD Officer on National Relations Among Troops

PM021430 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 88 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General S. Ostashev, chief of the USSR MVD Internal Forces Political Directorate, under the rubric "Ideological Work: Facets of Renewal": "In a Multinational Collective"]

[Text] A rather unusual letter recently turned up in the political directorate's mail, having been passed on by the editorial office of one of the central newspapers. It was about the fact that in the subunit where the author of the letter, Private 1st Class A. Pospelov, serves, certain servicemen had a disrespectful attitude toward their colleagues of other nationalities, gave them various nicknames, and indulged in not entirely innocuous jokes and snide remarks at their expense. All this naturally had far from a beneficial effect on the atmosphere, because, if we can put it this way, Vasiliy, Yanis, Ashot, Chingiz, and all the others live in one collective.

A worrying report, it cannot be denied. It was promptly investigated on the spot and the matter was put to rights. But of course, the feelings of bitterness remain.

Questions of the cultivation of internationalist awareness and the rallying of multinational troop collectives are particularly relevant to us. Our troops are exceptionally diverse in terms of national composition. Servicemen have to fulfill the tasks of maintaining public order in the streets of cities in the union and autonomous republics, among inhabitants of indigenous nationalities, which also calls for constant attention toward international education. Finally, a fact of some importance that must also be taken into account is that every day our patrols and troop details carry out service with firearms, are separated from their subunits for days on end, and often have to operate in a very complex situation. It is clear what a danger is posed in these circumstances by, for instance, abnormal nationality relations, and how important cohesion, unanimity, and friendship are.

Every commanding officer and political worker—and not only in our forces, of course—will say that we have experience of international education. But we fail to observe that it also contains elements of stagnation and formalism.

In the subunit where Captain Yu. Raimov is the political worker, servicemen of Azerbaijani nationality were the culprits in certain conflict situations. Elements of national arrogance on the part of individual soldiers were once even discussed at a Komsomol meeting. However, this did not worry or alert the commanding officer, or the political worker, or the Komsomol organization secretary.

It is not for nothing that I am talking about the officers, the Communists. It is they who have the decisive role in educating servicemen in multinational troop collectives. Here the guarantee of success will, I think, be proximity to people above all. Recently we have spoken of this more and more frequently in terms of the need to show constant concern for the needs and aspirations of personnel. All that is, of course, true. But we often forget that proximity to people has another aspect too—it serves the cause of rapprochement among servicemen of different nationalities. That is only natural, because an officer who really knows how to be close to his subordinates will never show indifference to a soldier who is experiencing, say, difficulties in mastering the Russian language and is ashamed of his inability to express himself, he will never omit, in political studies, paying attention to the successes and achievements of the native republics of members of his audience, he will study their customs, morals, culture, national traditions and peculiarities. He will never permit himself to speak disrespectfully of a particular nation, he will find a good word for all of them. In a word, he will set an example of highly developed internation contact. In a firmly welded, harmonious collective where respect for the commanding officer is high and his efforts have created a warm, comradely atmosphere, conflicts on the basis of nationality do not, as a rule, occur.

An example of this is the leading subunit of Lieutenant Colonel B. Demich, where an atmosphere of good will, mutual respect, and mutual assistance among servicemen of all nationalities has been created. Although the battalion commander's work does not always run smoothly, the most important thing is that he always tries to keep in touch with his subordinates. They are used to seeing him always with them—on watch and in the canteen, at the Komsomol meeting, among the attackers at the soccer match, and on the stage in the amateur concert.

Amateur creative work has, incidentally, here been an important means of rallying the multinational collective. Let us see how much this has to offer in the educational sphere. Learning about a national culture and the unsophisticated but always enthusiastic, wholehearted performance of dances and songs moves the soldiers, touches and softens their hearts, and helps them better to know and understand their colleagues. Not to mention the fact that a special atmosphere of trust is developed in the universal enthusiasm of preparations for concerts and in the course of rehearsals. I am sure that the germs of national arrogance and pride, egotism and aggressiveness, which in other conditions grow into conflicts, perish in this atmosphere.

Such an atmosphere also has a beneficial influence on the resolution of the "language problem." It exists. A number of subunits, for instance, suffer major shortcomings in working through their combat and political training programs because of the unsatisfactory organization of Russian language studies. It is no secret that in recent years a considerable number of new recruits with a poor knowledge of Russian have joined the troop collectives. Naturally difficulties arise. We require every serviceman to fulfill the oath and regulations, yet he has not even mastered their meaning. Ignorance of the language prevents him from adapting within the collective and encourages him to associate only with his fellow countrymen, which leads to the formation of subgroups and "friendly societies."

That is why we must at least do something to make good the gaps in young people's predraft preparations. In many subunits Russian study circles operate. But how? Sometimes a very narrow approach is adopted to this good idea, with the aim of the studies being confined solely to the mastery of commands and orders. Given this approach, there can be no question of cultivating social activeness or molding the serviceman's personality.

Restructuring prompts us to seek new approaches to the resolution of this problem. The attention of the chiefs of political organs was focused, for instance, on the experience accumulated in the unit where officer V. Yenyagin heads the political section. Here work with people who have a poor knowledge of Russian begins at the training center, where they are formed into special groups to study under the program set forth in the textbook "20

Lessons to Develop the Habits of Russian Speech." (This textbook was prepared by the political directorate taking into account the specific characteristics of our service, and was sent to the troops with the intention that it should reach every company.) The classes are taken by officers who already have experience in leading such groups.

Many of them know the national languages. Sergeants with a knowledge of the languages of the USSR's peoples, soldiers who have trained as teachers, and the administration of the sites under protection are brought in to help in the training and education of soldiers.

The training of servicemen who have a special need for the continued study of the language continues in an additional group attached to the unit staff under the leadership of the directorate officer, with interpreter sergeants assigned to assist him. This program, which takes 2 weeks, provides for work on particular topics with the help of practical studies in the leading disciplines, and pursues the same aim—that of preparing the young soldier for the skillful, intelligent fulfillment of his duties.

After this preliminary training young soldiers are sent to the subunits, where the study of Russian continues, albeit by a different method. Studies are organized twice a week during political education hours. They are conducted by Russian teachers from nearby secondary schools. This is backed up by patronage over the students by Komsomol activists drawn from among well trained fellow countrymen of the young soldiers, who report to the Komsomol organization. Wide use is made of patronage ties with students at the local teacher training institute. A library stock is being built up consisting of works by national writers.

Here they hold special seminars with the officers who lead political study groups, on the method of teaching spoken Russian to persons of non-Russian nationality, and they deliver lectures on questions of CPSU nationalities policy and the nature of Islam and reports on the study of the national cultures, customs, and traditions of the nations and ethnic groups whose representatives are serving in the subunits.

Or take another example. We are becoming more severe, through political organs and party and Komsomol organizations, in relation to manifestations of nationalist arrogance and other unworthy actions on these grounds.

When platoon commander Lieutenant V. Kaminskiy offended the national dignity of private A. Zeynalov, at first people in the platoon said that the officer would get away with it. But when the lieutenant had to answer to the Komsomol members, who voted to severely reprimand him, everyone realized that the reaction to such misdemeanors has changed. The officer was also punished under disciplinary procedures. A similar misdemeanor by company commander Captain Ya. Boyko was also severely condemned. The officer was demoted and the party organization severely reprimanded him, with an entry on his record.

In the work of educating servicemen in the spirit of the friendship of the USSR's peoples, it is important to activate all the forms and means. In our view the agitation tour of Kazakhstan and Kirghizia by a group of veterans of the internal forces, devoted to the 70th anniversary of Great October, was a success. We are also seeking new approaches to endow with fresh content the traditional, tried and tested forms of internationalist propaganda, changing its style in favor of greater polemical keenness and the frank exchange of opinions, and we are teaching propagandists not only not to avoid tricky points, but also to ensure that the audience is not left with a single unclear question, however unusual such a question may appear at first glance. Much more attention is being devoted to forming the aktiv from servicemen of different nationalities.

In a word, work is proceeding along various lines. Nonetheless there is still much that we have yet to achieve, still many problems. We are seeking to resolve them in the modern way, penetrating to their depths and ridding ourselves of ostentation and formalism.

Militia Official Reviews Crime Statistics

LD032121 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Militia Petr Stepanovich Bogdanov, chief of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Administration of Internal Affairs, with correspondent Anatoloy Fedorov in Moscow on 3 February—recorded]

[Text] [Fedorov] Petr Stepanovich, the eyes of the entire country are on the Moscow 'Red Banner' militia, which is understandable. What are the pluses and minuses of the past year?

[Bogdanov] The past year was a complicated one for the Moscow internal affairs agencies. We took measures to strengthen the leading echelon, to raise its responsibility and efficiency, and to raise the professional training of staff members. The work took place in the conditions of the development and deepening of democratization. Glasnost and openness have become firmly established. Participation by the leaders of the main services in the work of collegiums and meetings of other departments was practised considerably more than before. It has become the norm for leading officials to address workers' collectives and inhabitants of mocrorayons.

We regard it as our achievement that in 1987 several law and order measures were carried through in which not only law protection agencies but also representatives of

party, local soviet, Komsomol, trade union, and other social organizations took part. These measures have yielded a postive result. The total number of crimes in the city fell by 10.8 percent including those under the auspices of the criminal investigation department by 2.1 percent, and serious crimes by 31.8 percent. There were fewer murders and fewer cases of serious bodily harm, rapes, robberies, and hooliganism.

However, assessing the state and results of operational service activities from positions of present-day requirements, the Central Directorate Collegium believes that reserves for stepping up the struggle against crime are far from fully ralized. Thus, a rise in crimes is noted on the territory of 10 rayons. We have made errors in organizational work. Much of what we did has turned out to be half-measures. Services and subunits have not ensured efficient cooperation in prevening and detecting crime.

I would like to draw attention to the most serious problems. The struggle against alchoholism and drunkenness is such a problem in the first place. In 1987 some 40,000 citizens who developed a strong taste for spirits underwent a course of preventive treatment, almost 3,000 more than in 1986. Now that a more complicated and crucial stage is setting in, the roots of drunkenness are to be undermined by painstaking and purposeful actions. This is all the more necessary in connection with the the widespread incidence of moonshining. It should be noted that precinct inspectors are clearly not doing enough work here. Last year 992 moonshine apparatuses and over 82,000 litres of moonshine and home-brewed beer were confiscated. An analysis of the results of the struggle against drunkenness show that this evil has not yet been eradicated in production. Thus, last year, the militia alone recorded 6,750 cases of drunkeness at work.

We need to improve this work jointly with the managers of enterprises, the heads of workshops, foremen, teamleaders, and commissions for the struggle against drunkenness.

There is another question which, according to the results of last year, has not been satisfactorily dealt with: crime among miners. A considerable rise has taken place. There are also omissions on our part here. But we are entitled to count on the Komsomol organizations, teaching collectives, labor collectives, and parents occupying themselves more with this problem. Juveniles are our future. How we mold them today that is how the country will be tomorrow.

Killer Executed; 12 Defendants 'Rehabilitated'

LD031549 Moscow TASS in English 1955 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Minsk February 2 TASS—The sentence passed on G. Mikhasevich, who savagely killed women in the territory of Soviet Belorussia has been carried out. The hardened criminal killed 33 women over nearly 15 years. Georgiy Tarnavskiy, procurator-general of this republic, explained to TASS that the search for the killer had been conducted throughout all these years but, regrettably, the investigation veered from the right track. Breaches of law were committed, as a result of which 12 people who were not involved in these crimes found themselves in the dock. All of them were rehabilitated. Law enforcement officials, who are held responsible for lawlessness, were punished. Criminal charges are brought against some of them.

Mikhasevich, the true criminal, was a metalworker in a collective farm in Belorussia. The Judicial Collegium on Criminal Offenses of the Supreme Court of the USSR sentenced him to capital punishment. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR turned down Mikhasevich's request for a pardon.

Moscow Weekly Follows Up Odessa Malyshev Case

PM031426 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by S. Kiselev, own correspondent for the Ukrainian SSR, under the rubric "Returning to a Report": "Is the Odessa 'Storm' Over?"]

[Text] A session of the Ukrainian MVD collegium was held, to examine the questions covered in Yu. Shchekochikhin's article "Storm After the Storm" (LITERATURNAYA GAZETA No 49, 1987). Lieutenant General of the Internal Service V.V. Durdinets, republican first deputy minister of internal affairs, and Major General of Militia A.I. Borovik, chief of the Ukrainian MVD political department, report.

"For lawlessness in the examination of Aleksandr Malyshev's case," Vasiliy Vasilyevich Durdinets says, "the collegium relieved of their posts Major General of Militia Ye. Starovetskiy, chief of the Odessa Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration (a petition has been lodged with the USSR MVD on his dismissal from the internal affairs organs), Lieutenant Colonel of Militia S. Golovkin, chief of the Oblast Department for the Struggle Against Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation [OBKHSS], and Lietenant Colonel V. Kravchenko, chief of the city OBKHSS. There were severe reprimands for the deputy chiefs of the Odessa Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration for cadres and for operations—Lieutenant Colonel of the Internal Service A. Besedin and Lieutenant Colonel of Militia N. Adamenko. The collegium decision also states that we will come back to the question of the responsibility of internal affairs personnel, taking into account the degree of blame of each of them, after the end of the criminal case brought by the USSR Prosecutor's Office on the violation of socialist legality in the conduct of the investigation of A. Malyshev's case.

"We do not absolve ourselves of blame for what happened. The collegium made serious criticisms of the deputy ministers, political departments, and leaders of

relevant services of the republican MVD, who failed to grasp in good time the nature of the situation that had arisen in Odessa. I also wish to note that the collegium decision records the need to step up strict monitoring on the part of the Ukrainian MVD of the observance of socialist legality in the work of the republican internal affairs organs."

"The situation in Odessa itself is returning to normal," Aleksandr Ilich Borovik added. "A team of republican MVD workers has been sent to Odessa to give practical assistance in overcoming the negative phenomena discussed at the collegium. Militia Colonel S. Podlinev, an honest and principled man, has been appointed acting chief of the Odessa Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration. Militia Captain A. Malyshev has resumed work in the post of chief of the Odessa City Internal Affairs Administration OBKHSS, having been unjustly, or rather unlawfully, dismissed. Moreover the Ukrainian MVD is now engaged in searching in the most serious way for the persons who committed the attack on A. Malyshev in the street at night early this year. We are also trying to find out who organized the shadowing of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent who came to Odessa to write about this unprecedented case. A group of experienced staffers from the republican MVD has gone to Odessa to study all the stories and get to the bottom of this case as quickly as possible."

[Editorial footnote] We thank all the readers who responded to the article "Storm After the Storm."

Scene of Yaroslavl Train Crash Described

PM031941 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Own correspondent M. Ovcharov "Report from Yaroslavl": "Before and After the Accident"—first paragraph is editorial introduction; the article is accompanied by a picture of a heavy-lift crane beside a derailed freight car. The other cars in the picture—one a tank car—do not appear to be derailed]

[Text] The newspapers and television have reported briefly on the railroad accident on the edge of the town of Yaroslavl. Today our correspondent at the scene of the accident dictates the details of the event.

Fortunately, the worst did not happen—there were no fatalities. Yet the town missed a disaster by the skin of its teeth.

On 1 February in the clear, frosty morning I could only approach the scene of the accident after showing my editorial authorization everywhere, since all the adjoining streets and squares in Yaroslavl were blocked off by large detachments of militia. The accident happened 150 meters from the Volga, over which there has long been a railroad bridge constantly crisscrossed by trains on two tracks day and night. But last Monday the bridge was quiet and deserted. In practice this meant that one of the main routes on the Northern Railroad had been paralyzed.

Even from a distance I could see that on the high snow-covered embankment two freight cars had literally overturned like children's toys, and a large railroad tank car was lying horribly on its side directly on the rails. People in gas masks were busily working around it. There was a smell of some chemical substance in the air.

It happened just after midnight—at 0030 on 1 February. The freight train had left Yaroslavl Central Station heading for Vologda, but when it was passing the station of Privolzhye on the outskirts of the city two cars and three tank cars suddenly jumped the rails. A fire started in one of the derailed cars. Miraculously the five men accompanying the tank car survived, escaping with bumps and bruises. Regaining consciousness quickly, there were able to put out the flames themselves before the firemen arrived.

But, as was revealed later, the most sinister aspect of the catastrophe was concealed not in the derailed cars, but in the overturned tank.

V. Kolmakov, chief of the oblispolkom internal affairs administration, takes up the story:

"I heard about the accident near the bridge over the Volga from the duty officer at our administration about 15 minutes after it happened. Alarm calls immediately went out to the militia, the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Administration, the fire brigade, the civil defense headquarters, the garrison, medics... When I went up the embankment with railroad workers I saw that an unidentified acrid-smelling liquid was flowing out of the top of the tank car which had been opened up by the impact. Naturally the first thing we did was to have the militia cordon off the area.

"The first operational session of the accident elimination headquarters was held at two in the morning. The problem was that nobody knew at the time just what was in the tank car, how dangerous it was, and what precautionary measures needed to be taken. Incidentally, by morning it was already known that it was an inflammable and highly dangerous liquid."

V. Kovalev, chief of the accident elimination headquarters and first deputy chairman of Yaroslavl Oblispolkom, stated:

"First and foremost we determined the areas that were dangerous for people to enter. The specialists said 300 meters. But we upped that to 500. Incidentally, there was no panic in the city. I think that a major role in this was played by the fact that we hid nothing from the population..."

A morning report on local radio stated:

"Esteemed inhabitants of the city of Yaroslavl! An accident that resulted in tank cars being overturned happened at Privolzhye railroad station 150 meters from the bridge over the Volga at 0030 on 1 February. As a result of a leak of toxic substances a gas cloud was released over the surrounding area in the city's Leninskiy Rayon. The civil defense headquarters has decided to evacuate people in a 500-meter radius around the scene of the accident. Measures are being taken to eliminate the source of the problem. The population will be given periodic updates on oblast radio."

"In all 3,000 people were temporarily evacuated from the danger zone," V. Kovalev continued. "That day one school, four kindergartens, a technical college, and other institutions were closed. Films were shown for those brought by bus to assembly points (located in the 'Gigant' Club and the Auto Workers' Center). Various games were arranged for the children. And, of course, everyone was fed.

"At the same time restoration work was constantly under way at the scene of the accident. By 1630 the derailed tank car—this 'time bomb'—had been righted and put on the rails. After the tank car's top was firmly bolted down, the dangerous cargo was shifted to a safe place. Soil decontamination work was immediately carried out at the scene of the accident—the soil will be drenched with a special solution."

A new report, awaited by the entire city, went out on oblast radio:

"The accident elimination headquarters at the railroad near the bridge over the Volga reports that the accident is over. The trains are running again. The gas cloud that was in the atmosphere has gone. The citizens temporarily evacuated have been allowed home. On 2 February it will be business as usual for educational establishments, kindergartens, and other institutions."

The end of the operation... At exactly 1700 all the militia posts were removed. People joyfully returned home and passenger trains started crossing the bridge over the Volga one after another.

That was the end of the Yaroslavl drama. What did the drama consist of, we wondered. Was it the precise and organized way different services operated during a difficult time? There were thousands of people involved. Or was it the courage of those who, without a second thought and at personal risk, grappled with the crashed tank car? Or was it that, despite the fact that there were no fatalities, more than 30 people working in the danger zone were hospitalized, including militia Captain Plotnikov? Or perhaps it was that the city was extremely lucky that there was no wind and a severe frost, which reduced the effect of the tank car's contents?

Late in the evening of 1 February I talked with V. Predybaylov, chief of the Northern Railroad, who had collapsed from fatigue and nervous tension.

"Yes, it's true," he said, "people did a good job of restoration. We're grateful to them! But can we hide the fact that the work was done slowly? You see, we could have shut off the flanges and thereby stopped the leakage of the insidious liquid. But, regrettably, the tank car's bolts were so rusty that we couldn't tighten them. Yet someone must have prepared the tank car for such an important journey."

So we have arrived at the question which is undoubtedly worrying all of us: Why did the crash happen? Unfortunately, nobody yet knows the details. According to V. Predybaylov the preliminary version of the cause of the accident is that the buffer "plate" on the tank car was smashed en route and fell onto the rails at a switch, which led to the accident. Another question immediately arises: If that is so, why were the plates on the two other cars not broken? We do not yet know. But it is already clear that the tank car was gravely in need of overhaul, since it had long since come to the end of its useful working life.

"One other thing," the railroad chief said. "I do not understand why the dispatcher of these tank cars did not deem it necessary to advise the railroad workers about this in the event of emergency circumstances which, as we can see, could arise."

Indeed, is it not strange that people's lives and health should be placed at risk for the sake of departmental interests? OK, we got away without any dire consequences this time, but everybody realizes what could have happened. It is typical that even the people accompanying the tank car had no idea of how to act in the situation that confronted them. And hours were wasted working out what to do.

It would probably be premature to draw definitive conclusions about the accident just now. The Northern Transport Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings with regard to a violation of the regulations governing traffic safety. A commission from the Ministry of Railways has started work. So the conclusions will come. All the more so as it will still be some time before the consequences of the accident are finally eliminated. After all, half a tonne of liquid did manage to seep into the railroad bed. This will now have to be replaced. And need we mention the caution with which this will have to be done? Remember: The Volga is 150 meters away. Thank God the liquid did not get into the river and there is no danger of the river being polluted—that is extremely important.

The chemists, railroad workers, and medics are continuing to eradicate the consequences of the accident.

It is good that Yaroslavl succeeded in dynamically handling this most complex of situations without any major shortcomings or mistakes. But it seems that once again this only compensated for somebody's else's mistakes—the result of someone not doing what he should have done and allowing himself to relax and lose vigilance.

Clean-Up Progress Updated

LD041116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0610 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpts] We have already told you, comrades, about the accident which occurred in the early morning of 1 February in Yaroslavl [words indistinct]. [Passage omitted] Our correspondent told us about the measures which were adopted, but, comrade listeners, you continue to ask us what the situation is today. So, now we have Yarolavl on the line. Do you hear us?

[Correspondent Chernyak] Yes, your correspondent Yuriy Chernyak is in the studio at the Yaroslavl radio station.

[Presenter] Good morning, Yuriy. We would like to know whether the effects of the accident have been completely eliminated.

[Chernyak] I came here straight from the site of the accident. At first the danger zone from which the residents were temporarily evacuated was defined as 500 meters; now it is a small localized site right where the accident took place and the toxic liquid got into the soil at the trackside. Here, the work to remove the upper layer of soil, which has to be destroyed, is being completed. The work has gone on all night. Part of the soil from the embankment has already been taken outside the town and was incinerated yesterday, taking all the necessary precautions, naturally. All the work is being carried out according to a strict schedule which has been endorsed by the Yaroslavl obkom standing committee for emergencies. Water samples are being taken from the Volga regularly, and all the samples are normal. The devices checking the air also show that the atmosphere is all right. All our fears are behind us, as they say.

[Presenter] Yuriy, what is this liquid, then?

[Chernyak] I can say that in our country, as in other countries, quite a few toxic liquids are used in industrial production, including those from the class of amines, for dyestuffs, for example. Of course, all of them call for the strictest safety measures.

[Presenter] Well, in connection with this, are there any new details about how it all happened?

[Chernyak] Well, the causes of the accident are being investigated by the special commission, and it is too early to report on the results of its work. By way of preliminary information—we have already spoken about this—it is known that a freight car partially broke up, and metal parts fell onto the track. But let me stress once again, the detailed investigation is still to come. Here I would just like to single out the actions of the train escort crew and its leader, Valeriy Vladimirovich Generalov. The carriage they were in also overturned; fortunately they all survived, and Generalov immediately organized rescue work energetically and took all the steps necessary in such extreme situations. They were joined after a very short time by the town's civil defense services. In general, one has to say that the whole staff—the militia, the railmen, the troop detachments, and chemical experts—are operating very efficiently here. (?There are some) preliminary estimates that all the work to clear up the effects of the accident should be completed in full today, and I think I will be able to report on that by the evening.

Attempts To 'Silence' Newspapers Decried

PM011136 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Nikolay Bodnaruk article under the rubric "Journalist's Notes": "And a Letter Is Sent Straight to the Official Bodies"]

[Text] What do you do if an opinion is expressed in the newspaper that you do not share? You will agree that this question is rather more dramatic than the subject merits. What do we mean—what do you do? In any case, you don't think the world is collapsing. You simply think, because a different opinion, not your opinion, not the usual one, does not necessarily mean an opinion that is undoubtedly erroneous, still less hostile. And if a dogma collapses, that should not be confused with crumbling foundations, and the public quest for truth should not be confused with secret plotting. You must simply think.

The atmosphere of glasnost has stimulated society's mighty intellectual potential and made known the thoughts of millions of people, and this has led—it could not fail to lead—to a diversity of opinion that we are not used to. Everyone is looking for solutions to the accumulated problems. Where a quest is in progress, clashes of views and standpoints are inevitable. Errors and mistakes are, alas, also inevitable, because there are no prophets. Therefore patience is needed.

A different opinion should at least arouse curiosity. That is the touchstone that helps us either to confirm or to call into question the relevance of our own opinion. That is how it should be. Unfortunately, it still often turns out differently: "I demand that those who published this be called to account...."

These lines are encountered in letters to all the official bodies on the subject of particular publications. The wider the glasnost, the greater the influx of letters from those who seek not the truth through dispute, but an intermediary, a Supreme Arbiter, who will stop all disputes.

In Yaroslavl the workers and administration at a plant are engaged in a debate, jointly seeking the solution to a problem that has arisen. They are disputing fiercely. Placards, leaders, speeches—nothing of the kind existed before. It could not have existed, in the days before glasnost. In the climate of democratization, it is inevitable. On one topic or another, in one form or another—it happens, and will happen. Should we ban it? Silence it? Impossible. That is the way back to the past. So we must grow accustomed to it, analyze it, learn. The fierceness of the conflict, the quest, the prudence shown by workers and administration were described by the newspapers. "This is a riot!" G. M-V. of Perm writes to an official body. "IZVESTIYA does not understand what democracy is. They are engaging in propaganda...."

True, glasnost is hard. It is hard to get used to the fact that a different opinion exists alongside yours and is flourishing. It is also hard, apparently, to realize that a newspaper is not a barrier, not a barricade. Nor is it tablets of stone on which eternal commandments are carved. It is a platform. Collect your thoughts, mount the platform, speak—and listen to the response. That is what glasnost is. Honest discussion, on equal terms. But pen is already being put to paper: "I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in article..., paragraph..., author... propagandizes dangerous, alien..."

What do they hope for? That the Official Body, analyzing and summing up, will declare: Such-and-such a phrase (problem, idea, fact) must in future be assessed (read and considered) only thus? From now on discussion ceases, and anyone who dares... Incidentally, what will happen to the one who dared?

When you read letters like that, you feel ashamed for the author. Why this insatiable longing to find "intrigues," to find secrets in what is open? In, of all places, a newspaper, where every comma is plain for all to see?

But phrases are dragged out, accusations are substantiated.... The desire to turn the thoughts of classical writers into a merciless scourge of our contemporaries is tenacious. The logic is unshakable: If life does not conform to the quotation, so much the worse for life. It would not be so bad if the substitution was performed only by dilettantes clutching dictionaries of quotations. But the intellectuals are choosing the same means, and the same battlefield—the office.

A new draft law is under discussion, on which a particular opinion has been expressed. Immediately there is a letter from a group of doctors of juridical sciences to an official body. But why to an office, why do they not mount the platform?

Criticisms are voiced of a fellow literary man of ours who has more than once called on everyone for glasnost and democracy. A letter to an official body: "An attempt is being made..." The idea is simple: to silence the newspaper. Thus all the disputes will be settled, it will be decided who can have glasnost and who cannot, and we will be safe from these difficult times. Fighters against the old stagnation for an entirely new stagnation.

I would like to ask them: Are we looking for a path? Or was it paved for us long ago and even marked out—so that we only have to step on the accelerator and carefully follow the signposts?

A rhetorical question.

But answers, answers...

'Socialist Clubs' Leader Interviewed

PM010803 London NEW STATESMAN in English 29 Jan 88 pp 21-23

[Interview with Soviet Federation of Socialist Clubs activist Boris Kagarlitskiy by Alexander Cockburn: "Glasnost Turns Upside Down"]

[Text] "More socialism, and therefore more democracy!" Len Karpinskiy, MOSCOW NEWS, March 1987.

In Moscow this week, under conditions of official sanction that have remained open to doubt until the very moment the participants are brought to order, a momentous gathering is taking place: the first conference of the Federation of Socialist Clubs, which saw its public political birth at the end of last summer.

Back then, between 20 and 23 August in a hall provided by officials of the Moscow branch of the Communist Party, a conference of independent left-wing reformers was held, the first such meeting to be sanctioned in more than 50 years. It brought together about 600 representatives of 50 ecological, cultural and grassroots socialist groups. The proceedings were tumultuous and at the end various associations emerged, among them the Federation of Socialist Clubs, the core bodies being the Club for Social Initiatives (CSI); Obshchina, a student group; and a youth group called the Forest Folk. Also under the Federation's umbrella came such clusters as the Young Communard Internationalists, the Che Guevara Brigade and Red Sails.

Among the leading activists of the Federation is a 29-year-old sociologist called Boris Kagarlitskiy. He was jailed in 1982 for advancing Euro-communist notions and released 13 months later under Andropov. His father is an expert on Kipling and Wells, and Boris speaks English fluently.

The intellectual and cultural distance of Kagarlitskiy and his comrades from the previous generation of dissidents has already been clear from a long article he published in NEW LEFT REVIEW in October/November 1987. (His book The Thinking Reed: Soviet Intellectuals, 1917-82 will be published by Verso on 23 June.) I first talked to Kagarlitskiy in Moscow in the fraught days after Mikhail Gorbachev's speech to the Central Committee in

November. People were prowling through Gorbachev's speech, trying to gauge the shifts and eddies in the political winds. The affair of Boris Yeltsin, the Moscow party leader, was on every lip. Would he fall, and if so what would that presage?

In those anxious moments Kagarlitskiy and his association were active in supporting Yeltsin. They were on the streets collecting signatures in his support; calling for the minutes of the meeting that disgraced him to be made public. Kagarlitskiy was frankly pessimistic about the consequences of Yeltsin's dismissal if it came. On the eve of this week's conference we talked again. In what follows we can discern the stance—novel, portentous and precarious—of an emergent socialist revival in the Soviet Union.

AC: It's now nearly three months since Yeltsin's enforced resignation. What changes has his fall produced?

BK: There are contradictory signals. In some ways the situation is not good. We can't get the level of glasnost that prevailed before November. It's not that the conservatives are gaining the upper hand, but they are more efficient and active than they were three months ago. But in another way the situation is better, as witness the possibility of this conference.

AC: What are you hoping from your conference?

BK: We want to democratise and formalise the structure of the Federation of Socialist Clubs, and produce a document to be used for its legalisation. This is very important. Right now the estate is drafting a law concerning "voluntary organisations" which is actually worse than the existing law, which was promulgated under Stalin in 1932, so you can imagine how bad it is. We want a return to the revolutionary law of 1926, and the conference will be a venue to agitate for that. Also we want to plan practical actions concerning education, prices and so on. Official, or unofficial, either way, it is going forward.

AC: I'd like you to go back now to Gorbachev's speech of 2 November.

BK: It was disappointing. People were waiting for more on Bukharin and something positive about Trotskiy. Without saying something about Trotskiy's participation in the establishment of Soviet power and the Red Army, you can't have a real history, which is very important in a country where people are crazy about history and are eager to get the empty parts of the past filled in. Trotskiy is treated as a criminal for saying something about the peasantry that was really wrong, but Stalin is not treated as a criminal for putting the same outlook into actual practice. The solution should be to say, Trotskiy made a lot of mistakes, but Stalin was a criminal. But we have the reverse situation. Another thing, there's an anti-Semitic campaign that says Trotskiy was responsible for all the evils in Soviet history. It would have been important if Gorbachev had said something to counter the anti-Semitic arguments of fascist groups. There was one favourable mention of Bukharin, but all the major criticisms of him resurfaced in the speech. All the same, you mustn't say that it was a Gorbachev speech. It was a speech of the Central Committee delivered by Gorbachev. There had been many versions, but the final one was dominated by conservative thinking.

AC: Could you draw a politico-intellectual map of what is going on?

BK: One current that is gaining ground now is the neo-Stalinist one. It's a very real danger that under perestroyka it is becoming much more popular than it was under Brezhnev. Stalinists are trying to become populists. Traditional Stalinism was simply manipulation of the people by bureaucratic means, and propaganda was simply a matter of explaining orders to the people. Now hard-line Stalinism, for the first time in its history, is trying to conquer the hearts and minds of the people.

AC: What is hard-line Stalinism today as a political project?

BK: The Stalinist project states, first we must re-establish the initial values of the system, not liberalise it, not change it, not democratise it, but recognise that the only way to solve our problems now is to turn back to the initial stage of the system, of the 1930s, to restore the same structures and the same mood of operating inside the structures. Second, as one Stalinist author wrote, we need a whip. That is, to make functionaries and workers more productive, democratic elements in the system should not be nurtured; per contra, some kind of moral terror should be established. Their economic project is simply to limit consumption, to destroy western patterns of consumption, thus to free up resources for the second industrialisation, which means scientific breakthroughs with computers and so forth. What is interesting is that, psychologically and ideologically, these Stalinists have a lot in common with Reagan's neo-conservatives. They're always talking about national pride, traditional values, moral climate, while at the same time urging struggle against subversive external influences, liberal tendencies of an allegedly counterproductive nature. So, psychologically, neo-conservatism is more like Reaganaut neo-conservatism than like old-fashined Stalinism. Now, that kind of propaganda is very efficient—not among the youth but among the older age groups.

AC: That's a strong intellectual current?

BK: You can't find too many self-respecting intellectuals in this camp, but you do find these ideas at the popular level. Then there is a liberal, westernising current, which, naturally, is better than neo-Stalinism but, all the same, is rather out of touch with reality. It's adherents want to

copy western modes of management, thinking, behaviour, without considering how ordinary people would react. They don't think about traditional Russian or Soviet culture. Not ideology but culture. Russian culture is not consumer-oriented or profit-oriented. Even Russian capitalism was inefficient because the capitalists were always more interested in the moral influence they should have on the workers than in the simple business of profit.

Then there is a current called cultural democracy. Those of this mind say they aren't interested in capitalism or socialism. They say, that's not our problem. They say they want free culture; under which system is a matter of indifference.

AC: They don't think about the relations of production?

BK: Not at all. It's a kind of historical liberalism. There's also a current—weakening—of liberal communism of the Twentieth Party Congress genre, which is simply trying to say once again everything said during the Khrushchev period. It's influential among people in their 60s, for whom the Khrushchev period was very important, their shining hour. It has absolutely no influence on youth. There's also a growing nationalist tendency. It's not 100 per cent Stalinist but there is a de facto alliance between the two.

AC: You're talking about Pamyat (the far-right nationalist, anti-Semitic group).

BK: They're anti-semitic, saying the Jews are responsible for things that go wrong, force them to pay and so on; but the most important thing is that it is based on some feeling of frustration, especially among the petty bureaucracy—engineers, bureaucrats who are underpaid but not qualified for raises. They don't want competition, especially with Jews.

AC: You're 29. What was formative for your generation—people from 25 to 34, say?

BK: What was very important for my generation was the failure of "official dissent", meaning the dissident movement of the sixties and seventies. It failed not only to change anything but also to establish any kind of ideological alternative. People ended up just saying that in principle you can't do everything in this country, so the only thing you can do is criticise it, for reasons of pure criticism—which means recognising that you are a complete failure politically. They were as intolerant as the Stalinists. It became clear that this wasn't the way forward. If you read dissident materials, you find a lot of inverted Stalinists. For example, Stalinists say socialism is what exists in the Soviet Union now; the dissidents said the same thing. No democratic socialism is possible, say the Stalinists. Agreed completely, said the dissidents. So on theoretical points the dissidents agreed 100 per cent with the Stalinists. They simply changed plus to minus, "good" to "bad". When Solzhenitsyn wanted to criticise western left-wingers, he always quoted Stalin.

So an alternative had to be discovered. We began to study Marx and Lenin, and other thinkers like Bukharin. Some people were interested in the role of Trotskiy. People suddenly came upon the Gramscian tradition and discovered that there is a whole culture of the western left, as well as eastern European reformism. That was the first stage, which came about ten years ago. Now the problem is not to copy western models of thinking and acting but to find out the Russian way of being a left-winger.

AC: How would you describe the crisis that produced such developments as glasnost, perestroyka and so on?

BK: Essentially, as the failure of the Brezhnevite historic compromise. Soviet society was never monolithic in the sense required by theories of totalitarianism developed by western Sovietologists. The soviet system always included different social and political tendencies. The problem was, how to balance the different forces within the system? The Brezhnevite compromise was in a sense based on over-exploitation of the country's resources. Every group got its slice.

AC: Not a zero-sum game.

BK: No victims. Russia is resource rich, but there are limits. The Brezhnevite system arrived at its own limits, which accounts for the emergence of perestroyka even before Brezhnev's death. With the start of the 1980s the limits were evident.

AC: What sort of limits are you talking about?

BK: Money, for example. You can't just print it. I'm not talking merely about salaries but about the costs of running the apparatus and the enterprises. If the enterprises—industries and so on—are losing money, then you have to subsidise them more heavily. And if each enterprise or sector wants to expand, and thus acquire more bureaucratic influence, you have to find even more money. So there was a financial crisis.

AC: What does economic reform really add up to?

BK: There are two concepts of economic reform. One is a kind of technocratic imposition of capitalist elements onto the existing system.

AC: Material incentives?

BK: Material incentives are not necessarily capitalist. When you think that human beings are animated only by material incentives, that is capitalism. For that matter one could ask, what is the alternative to the material incentives of the westernisers? The major incentive for Russian workers should be more free time.

AC: That reminds me of a West Indian organiser in London, Darcus Howe, who once said to me, "Less work, more leisure."

BK: People should have some say in how much they work. Given the choice, they may not work more but they will work better. The quality of their work will improve tremendously. Free time, incidentally, means a better quality of life, which in itself is much more than a matter of living standards.

AC: What do the technocratic reformers want?

BK: More power to managers, more strength to market forces but without abolishing the system of centralised bureaucratic planning, centralised distribution of resources. They just want to give managers more power in establishing prices for the final product. That's a bureaucratic-capitalist mix. The technocratic conservative faction says, let us do everything we did before, but better—better managers, better computers. One of our people said that these reformers are "serf-owning liberals", as in the nineteenth century. They want some kind of feudal capitalism; that is, manipulative elitism. This means forcing ordinary people to pay for the crisis produced by bureaucratic management. If you don't abolish the central elements of bureaucratic management, the crisis will be reproduced again and again.

AC: And the other currents?

BK: A growing left-wing current expresses the necessity of democratising not only the political system but also the relations of production, giving people more say in decision-making; more possibility for workers to elect their managers and also have direct democracy on the enterprise level. There are a few people in the official groups who support those ideals.

It's strange that the most radical people in the official sphere are culturally oriented. They are not thinking about enterprises and economic reforms. We have generated a lot of papers on the economy, but the intelligentsia is generally more interested in social and cultural problems, thus, surrendering the economic sphere to the conservatives. It's an important point about any cultural radicalism or liberalism. You try to establish cultural hegemony, but when you think you've got somewhere you find, finally, that the decision-making centres are inside the economy and you can't reach them. That's why the socialist club movement is important; we're trying to cross that gap between the socio-cultural and the economic spheres.

AC: On the economic front what thinkers influence your group?

BK: Internationally, some Hungarian economists like Janos Kornai, though now we consider him to be moving to the right. Many are disappointed with his recent work, but his earlier work, from the fifties, on overcentralisation influenced a lot of people. Also Vladimierz Brus, a Polish professor at Oxford. Some are interested in Scandanavian social democracy, though whether anything can be learned from that, I should stress that the people looking at Sweden are not social democrats. More broadly, people are very influenced by Marcuse and by Gramsci. Among the members of Obshchina (the student organisation under the Federation of Socialist Clubs), Bakunin is very important. People are information-hungry and seize on any left-wing thought.

AC: So how are you bringing your ideas to bear in the economic sphere?

BK: For example, we've set up a group called the Campaign for Just Prices, trying to show that price rises are not only unnecessary and unjust but also anti-reformist. So, first, give more power in decision-making about prices to the local authorities—since they are more sensitive to market pressures and also to local needs, and will be forced to find a balance between the two forces-but at the same time democratise those local authorities. Second, you need to have differentiated prices functioning as a redistributive force, making richer people subsidise the consumption of those poorer than themselves. That means higher prices for luxury goods, restaurant meals and so on.

So far as distribution is concerned, we must move toward the market, which is the natural framework because it's the only way to establish the sovereignty of the consumer over the producer in the Soviet economy, which is producer-dominated. So in that sense some movement toward the market is needed. But the problem is to accompany that with a movement toward producers' democracy, toward more participation of the people in decision-making, with some redistributive mechanism which should be democratic.

AC: There's a tendency in the West to read all recent Soviet developments in terms of Gorbachev's initiatives, which is surely a naive way of looking at events?

BK: Under Brezhnev there was already some kind of bureaucratic pluralism, and today the power struggle is not more intense than in Brezhnev's last years, but it is more visible, because now we have glasnost.

There are bureaucratic institutions and groupings that have different political concepts. It's rather more of an American than a western European type of pluralism. We have a one-party and the Americans a two-party system, but in the sense that interest groups are more important than the formal political machinery, a certain similarity becomes evident. In that way the Soviet system is evolving toward an Americanised system, with

much more weight attached to lobbies, political groupings inside the structure, which impose political constraints on the elite. What is truly new is that grassroots left-wing and right-wing tendencies are trying to influence that structure.

AC: So the present plan of the clubs is to develop reinvigorated socialist concepts and try to circulate them?

BK: Yes, and to become a real factor, a real pressure group, in the decision-making process. In local issues the groups can have great effect. With global problems it's not easy. We've managed to get a lot of people at the official level to accept our role as a pressure group and to recognise that under perestroyka it is normal for such groups to exist. Even those who don't identify themselves with us see that it's necessary to have forces on the left to counterbalance the right.

AC: What are your hopes for the future? Are you optimistic or pessimistic?

BK: (laughing) I should say I'm not completely pessimistic. The balance of forces is moving slightly toward the more conservative end. If you try to change things you always get some kind of polarisation. So the left is growing stronger, as are the extreme right and the conservatives, and the liberal-moderate tendencies are going to be weaker.

AC: Some dialogue between your group and people in western European and U.S. left movements could obviously be important.

BK: Often we are disappointed with the Western left. It is pragmatic and de-ideologised, whereas Russian culture is ideological and value oriented. We're interested in the history of the New Left, also in the present peace groupings and the Green movement, because they are also value oriented. Of course, to those Western value-oriented movements the Soviet left-wing groups must seem rather pragmatic, since we must necessarily avoid demagogy and formulate concepts engaging seriously with economic short-comings and contradictions. Value-oriented groups in the West sometimes forget about practical contradictions. In principle we're open to dialogue with the Western left.

Hopes for Ukrainian Literature

AU021156 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 26 Jan 88 p 6

[Journal review by L. Shevchenko, candidate of philological sciences: "Put Me on the Waiting List"—boldface as published]

[Excerpts] **The longest waiting lists are for the new things published in thick journals. There is a great demand for A. Rybakov's "The Arbat Children," V. Dudintsev's "The White Garments," A. Platonov's "The Foundation Ditch," M. Bulgakov's "The Dog's Heart," A. Tvardovskiy's "By Rights of Memory," and A. Akhmatova's "The Requiem." While joining in the contemporary literary process, while opening new pages in the history of Soviet art, they compel one to take a more intent look at intellectual strivings in literature; in a sense, they turn into a standard for the civic and philosophical spirit of mastery, and impel one to compare them unintentionally with works published in the same journals in the eighties.**

In Ukrainian journals one can find interesting responses to the topics of the day, works by present-day authors, as well as works written some time ago. Let us have a look at issue No 11 of the journal KYYIV. It carries poetry by V. Sosyura, M. Rylskiy, and A. Malyshko along with Les Kurbas' theatrical composition, "The October Review," written on the 10th anniversary of the revolution, and now published for the first time. In its time, it was staged in the "Berezil" theater as a "solemn act with 2 parts and 26 scenes." [passage omitted]

Enormous interest has also been aroused among the readers by Vladimir Vinnichenko's early stories and sketches published in issue No 12 of KYYIV, along with a profound analytical article by Pavlo Fedchenko, a prominent literary critic in the Institute of Literature under the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and doctor of philological sciences, "We Evaluate From Class Positions." The issue familiarizes us with one of the most popular writers early in the century, a figure who was complex and contradictory in his political strivings, a man with a brilliant literary talent, whose heritage cannot be erased from the history of literature. [passage omitted]

In becoming familiarized with the new things in Ukrainian literature recently offered in periodicals, one can see that: among them there are no works which would meet with a response all over the country. Let us hope, however, that the process of democratization which is gathering strength will give the reader talented, honest, and outstanding stories, novels, and poems.

One would like very much to also join the waiting list for a Ukrainian journal.

KOMMUNIST Publishes Bukharin 1929 Report

PM011145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 88 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Journal's Latest Issue"]

[Text] The second issue of KOMMUNIST has been published. It opens with an article by V. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, entitled "Great October and the Modern World." It examines a broad range of questions of international relations, global problems, and problems of the development of the socialist world and the international communist and workers' movement.

Under the rubric "Regarding the 19th All-union CPSU Conference" there is an article by R. Blyum "Going Back to the Sources. Friedrich Engels on Intraparty Democracy" and also letters from readers—participants in an extramural "round table" on the topic: "Democratization of the Party Is Democratization of Society."

An article by USSR Academy of Sciences corresponding member A. Granberg is devoted to the tasks of structural policy in Siberia. "The Course of Normalization"—this is the headline for Ye. Gaydar's economic review, which examines some of last year's economic results.

Continuing to analyze the results and significance of M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Washington, the magazine publishes notes by E. Arab-Ogly, its special correspondent at the meeting between the leaders of the two powers: "The Realities of the New Thinking. From Confrontation to Cooperation."

The issue contains the latest selection of answers by experts to the editorial office's questions about the tasks for juridical science and practical work under conditions of restructuring.

The journal publishes an article by Academician N. Moiseyev entitled "V.I. Vernadskiy and the Natural Science Tradition" and an article by Academician A. Yershov "Information Technology: From Students' Computer Literacy to Society's Information Culture."

"Lenin's Political Testament"—this is the title of the report by N.I. Bukharin at the mourning session dedicated to the 5th anniversary of Lenin's death which is published under the rubric "Pages of History." The report talks about the historical significance of the revolutionary leader's last works.

In an article, Valeria Benke, chief editor of TADSA-DALMI SZEMLE, the MSZMP political and theoretical organ, gives an account of the economic, political, and ideological problems experienced by Hungary and of the party's assessment of the reasons for the emergent difficulties and the elaboration of ways to overcome them.

The issue contains reviews, information, diary items, and other items.

Publications Examine 1953 Doctors' Plot

LD032234 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, February 3 (TANJUG)—The weekly MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI today publishes an exhaustive article on the "White Uniforms' affair" involving a group of Kremlin doctors accused in 1953 of collaborating with American, German and British secret services on whose orders they allegedly were killing Soviet leaders.

The doctors, largely Jews, were arrested early in January 1953. An official announcement by the authorities labelled them "beasts in human form, members of a terrorist group, paid agents guilty of the deaths of Andrey Zhdanov and A. Shcherbakov."

On the eve of their arrest, writes the paper, Stalin hinted in a talk with Minister of Health Smirnov that the "same doctor treated Dimitrov and Zhdanov, and they both died." This points to the conclusion that Stalin himself initiated the case which subsequently turned into a large-scale campaign against the doctors and a new settling of accounts in top Soviet circles.

One of the arrested doctors, Professor Yakov Raport, has now written his reminiscences which will soon appear in the monthly DRUZHBA NARODOV. He writes about a doctor, Professor Vinogradov, who found Stalin's health condition seriously deteriorated and recommended that he stop all political activity. When KGB Chief Beria reported that to Stalin, he shouted angrily: "To chains with him."

Vinogradov was arrested and placed in the group of doctors whose trials were to start soon. Their wives, too, were arrested.

The chief prosecutor in the "White Uniforms' Affair" was Doctor Lidia Timashuk, who was promoted soon afterwards and who received the Lenin Award.

Stalin died in March 1953, and in the night of April 3-4 all doctors were released. This was followed soon by an announcement saying the "Investigation has shown that the charges against them were false and confessions extorted." The man who had been in charge of the investigation was executed, a new decree taking the Lenin Award away from Lidia Timashuk was issued, and the doctors were returned to work.

Wives, children, brothers and parents of Politbureau members and other top Soviet leaders were also released in the first few weeks after the dictator's death. Almost every one of them had someone in jail: Molotov his wife, Mikoyan sons, Kaganovich a brother...

For the time being, other Soviet papers do not write about the "White Uniforms' affair." The article in "DRUZHBA NARODOV," however, shows evidently that the "filling in of white spots" in Soviet history continues.

Moscow TV Premiers Documentary on Kirov

LD040050 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1631 GMT on 3 February carries a 1 hour 30 minute documentary entitled "Time of Hopes" about Sergey Mironovich Kirov, the Communist Party leader in Leningrad until his assassination in 1934. The narrator explains that the documentary, made in 1987, is

being screened for the first time. It is made up of archive film illustrating aspects of Kirov's career with footage showing his party comrades, including Stalin, on various occasions.

The program opens with scenes from Lenin's funeral in 1924. The narrator says:

"In the party leadership a struggle started not so much for preserving the behests of Ilich as for personal power. Grigoriy Zinovyev and Lev Kamenev, members of the Central Committee Politburo, in contrast to the majority of the party, whose support was enjoyed by its general secretary, Iosif Stalin, set up the new opposition which threatened a split."

The narrator explains that Stalin thereafter sent Kirov to Leningrad, "to fight the new opposition". Kirov's time in Leningrad is described in praise from his party comrade Ordzhonikidze.

The program then examines Kirov's activities in his next assignments in the civil war in defense of Astrakhan and as party chief in Azerbaijan, moving on to cover the events of the 15th Congress of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the achievements of the first 5-year plan.

The program then turns to Kirov's achievements in Leningrad in the thirties. During this section footage is shown of Hitler speaking, the launching of The Deutschland, and scenes of recruitment into the Red Army. The narrator says:

"In those extreme conditions of enmity and encirclement and overcoming industrial backwardness an original system of running the country came into being, based on harsh centralism of power. Soviet state organs of control were in effect subordinated to party leadership and deprived of independence. All social and economic questions were decided exclusively by administrative authoritarian methods. Stalin had already been raised to the rank of the great, most wise leader and was infallible, just as the leaders of the party and government were infallible. Now the slightest deviation from the line drawn by Stalin was considered impermissible, and more often was regarded as sabotage. It was convenient to attribute to sabotage accidents and breakdowns of obsolete machinery which did not withstand the rates of use imposed. Court cases and trials of the wreckers became the banner of the time."

Moving on to the 17th party congress in 1934, the narrator says: "By that time Kirov was already one of the most popular leaders of the party. The ovation in the hall prevented him from beginning his speech for a long time." At the congress, according to the narrator, Kirov won an overwhelming majority of votes in the elections to the Central Committee, "many more than Stalin". After describing Kirov's attitude to his party opponents, the narrator says:

"As distinct from Kirov, Stalin did not recognise that his opponents even had a right to exist. He was specially mistrustful of personalities which thought in ways out of the ordinary. Tukhachevskiy, Yegorov, Blyukher, the first Marshals of the Soviet Union, were to be shot on fabricated charges at the end of the thirties. After them the whole Red Army was virtually beheaded. Only those who fully and unreservedly supported Stalin in everything kept their lives and jobs. The majority of the delegates to the 17th congress of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) were suppressed. This, which was rightly called the congress of victors, in 1937 and 1938 achieved a tragic fame among the people as the congress of the shot." During these remarks the film shows Stalin aiming a rifle. As the word "suppressed" is said the camera switches to a shot of Kirov.

The documentary offers a reconstruction of Kirov's last day and shows his death notice posted. The narrator says:

"At a regular party congress 27 years later the question was raised about this political assassination, but it remained unanswered. and even today one can only guess about the real reasons for the tragedy."

The program ends with scenes from Kirov's funeral.

Economic

Management Consultation Center Opens in Riga

LD040032 Moscow TASS in English 2016 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Riga February 3 TASS—A consultative centre has been opened in Riga, the capital of Soviet Latvia. Economists and sociologists of the Delta Centre give recommendations to enterprises and organisations on ways to upgrade management and production organisation under the new conditions of full cost-accounting.

The centre, too, works on the principles of self-repayment and self-financing.

Delta's staff is small, but the centre invites specialists to tackle specific tasks on a contract basis. These specialists should be highly skilled and not only because Delta seeks to maintain a high prestige. The centre is financially responsible for the quality of the orders' fulfilment and their fulfilment in time.

Delta has already used services of researchers from the Latvian Academy of Sciences and Latvian University. It also plans to cooperate with specialists from Moscow and Leningrad in the future.

The centre's clients include many enterprises and organisations. For example, Delta has worked out a new management structure for the republican state committee for the procurement of oil products.

Consultations of this kind are in high demand now. This is why similar cooperatives have appeared in the republic in addition to Delta which is a state-run firm.

For instance, the Personalkonsultant cooperative gives recommendations on ways to enhance the efficiency of management, while the Algoritm cooperative offers services of highly-skilled programmers.

Scientific

Research Satellite 'Cosmos-1916' Launched

LD040733 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0718 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 4 Feb (TASS)—On Wednesday, 3 February, the Soviet Union launched its latest artificial earth satellite, "Cosmos-1916", in order to continue research into outer space. It was put into orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution—89.9 minutes; maximum distance from the earth's surface—384 km; minimum—179 km; inclination of orbit—64.9 degrees. The equipment installed in the satellite is functioning normally.

Experiments Aboard 'Mir' Complex Reported

LD021213 Moscow TASS in English 1142 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—TASS correspondent reports from Mission Control Centre:

A space flight of the Soviet Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov is going on on board the Mir manned orbital complex.

A program for today includes geophysical and astrophysical studies, the checking of the functioning of equipment working in an automatic regime, as well as physical exercises.

Numerous observations over the supernova star that flared up in the large Magellanic Cloud on February 23, last year, were conducted within the framework of the international roentgen program. According to the results of data processing, the flow of hard Roentgen radiation coming from that astrophysical object in the past two months was more than by 50 per cent greater than the one registered in August-October. The growth of the radiation flow and the evolution of its spectrum show, among other things, that the shell of the supernova continued to get lighter and that radioactive cobalt was not concentrated in the centre of the shell, but was spread in a great volume.

A week-long cycle of the calibration and adjustment of telescopes of the Roentgen orbital observatory starts today. The pulsar of the Crab Nebula is used as a standard source of radiation.

The work on board the orbital complex is going on according to the schedule.

Issue of Cosmonaut's Health Discussed

Leonov Refutes 'Canard'

PM021526 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 88 p 2

[Interview with Aleksey Leonov, deputy chief of the Yu.A. Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, by A. Lepikhov: "The Cosmonaut's Health Is Causing No Concern"—date and place of interview not given; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The Western mass media are spreading reports on the alarming state of health of Cosmonaut Yu. Romanenko, who spent 326 days in near-earth orbit.

We give the floor to Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Aleksey Leonov, deputy chief of the Yu.A. Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center.

[Leonov] I do not think I will be giving away any secrets if I say: There was not 25 years ago, and cannot now be, any 100 percent certainty of the total safety of space flight at any stage: the launch, the time spent in orbit, or the landing. The landing by Yu. Romanenko and A. Aleksandrov did not take place in the most favorable weather conditions, and we were unable to put up the tents where the first postflight examination was to be carried out. It was carried out on board a specially equipped helicopter. The next day both Yu. Romanenko and A. Aleksandrov walked to the canteen by themselves, and one day later, Yu. Romanenko was walking in the park unaided.

[Lepikhov] Aleksey Arkhipovich! Are you not exaggerating the success of adaptation? After all, researchers have long since described the "erosion" of calcium from the bones, certain disruptions in the metabolism, and the loss of muscle mass that take place in prolonged space flight.

[Leonov] No, I am not exaggerating. The processes you have mentioned do indeed take place, and they would be fatal to the human organism were it not for a whole system worked out by our medics for maintaining health in space. And the system is entirely effective.

After the "canard" was released in the West about Yu. Romanenko's state of health, I telephoned the physicians. I received the answer I expected: There are no abnormalities in the state of health of either of the cosmonauts.

[Lepikhov] Could you speculate as to how this newspaper "canard" arose?

[Leonov] I can suggest one possibility. Today information on the methods of maintaining human health in the conditions of prolonged space flight is an extremely costly commodity on the "space market." It is possible that someone reasoned: After this "canard," will not the Russians plunge in and describe all the details of this work, in which they are indisputably in the lead?

[Lepikhov] Can Yu. Romanenko's flight be regarded as a rehearsal for a future expedition to Mars?

[Leonov] I would regard this flight not as a rehearsal, but as the next step in the exploration of outer space. Can a man feel well after nearly a year in space? Yes! Can he work efficiently on board an orbital research complex for such a long time? Yes! Has the length of flight achieved the limit? Probably not. But only more flights can give an unequivocal answer to this third question.

Academician's Remarks

LD040936 Moscow TASS in English 0911 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—The organism of Soviet cosmonaut Yuriy Romanenko did not suffer any aberrations that would threaten any unforeseen developments either during his record-long space flight or during his re-adaption to gravity. Academician Oleg Gazenko, director of the Institute of Medico-Biological Problems, told TASS.

Romanenko set the space endurance record by working aboard the Soviet orbiting platform Mir from February 6 to December 29, 1987. The number of days he logged aloft during his three space missions adds up to 430.

Speaking of the objective indicators of his condition, Gazenko pointed to the fact that the cosmonaut's weight remained practically the same both during the flight and after it as being very important.

The optical density of his bone tissue, he added, decreased by just five percent—less even than recorded in some cosmonauts after shorter space missions.

Both at the Baykonur space port, where he was flown after landing, and now the cosmonaut's condition was and is just as expected, Gazenko said.

Romanenko is currently taking a rest at Kislovodsk in the Caucasus together with fellow cosmonauts under the supervision of doctors.

The experience of medico-biological support for manned missions in space gained over the past years, Gazenko said, is a good basis for confident further steps along the path of space exploration.

He said there is all the grounds for being optimistic about the possibility of increasing the duration of man's stay in space.

Interview With Cosmonaut

PM041043 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with USSR Cosmonaut Yu. Romanenko by special correspondent A. Ivakhnov in Kislovodsk: "Every Flight is a Test; USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Yu. Romanenko Answers IZVESTIYA'S Questions"; date not given; first two paragraphs are IZVESTIYA introduction, final paragraph is Ivakhnov conclusion]

[Text] The mission from the editorial office seemed simple: Meet with the "Taymyry," who are resting after their flight in Kislovodsk, hand them a bundle of readers' letters, and ask Yuriy Romanenko to answer the questions they contain. But I was met not by the cosmonauts, but by doctors. The "Taymyry," they said, are not simply on vacation. The metabolic processes in their organisms, altered after the prolonged effect of weightlessness, have still not fully recovered. There is influenza in Moscow and there are cases here too. So the talk would have to be put off.

After some persuasion, their anger nevertheless changed to kindness. But the number of questions had to be considerably reduced.

[Ivakhnov] Yuriy Viktorovich, at what stage of flight preparation is the choice made as to which crew will take its place in the spaceship?

[Romanenko] It is a great misconception to suppose that the main crew is designated at the cosmodrome, before take-off. When we embark on the preparation we already know who will have the principle parts.

[Ivakhnov] But if you know that it is not your crew which will fly, you probably do not train with the same zeal?

[Romanenko] Nothing of the kind. For young cosmonauts, being an understudy is a school, it brings them closer to their profession. If you have trained badly as an understudy, you will not be given the opportunity to train next time as a member of the main crew.

It also happens that understudies do go into orbit. Our take-off was an example. Sasha Laveykin and I wholeheartedly wished success to the main crew, especially Vladimir Titov, and we wanted him to board the "Mir" and regain confidence in himself after his former setbacks. But at the cosmodrome our crew was confirmed as the main one.

[Ivakhnov] You arrived on the "Mir" station, settled in, and began to fulfill the program. And suddenly there were the unsuccessful attempts to dock the "Kvant" module and the station. Did that not affect your mood?

[Romanenko] American pilots who want to become test pilots are given a questionnaire which asks: "Are you successful in life or do you consider yourself a failure?" An optimist treats any setback with confidence in his fate. So it is in our work—success awaits you if you know the potential of the equipment and have faith in the comrades backing up your flight. If you have faith in your success.

I have been a cosmonaut for 18 years. I have every grounds for considering myself a professional. And a professional must never lose his presence of mind under any conditions.

I viewed the failed attempts to dock the "Kvant" as difficulties of an experimental nature. And Aleksandr and I overcame them. True, we had to go out into open space to do so.

[Ivakhnov] It is probably possible to say now what prevented the docking?

[Romanenko] When we emerged from the station, we were ready for the worst—for instance, that one of the structural details of the docking unit had failed. But all we could see was a plastic toilet bag. When the next "Progress" was preparing to leave the "Mir", the manhole had been left unsupervised for a while, and this "foreign object" had been drawn there by an air current from the ventilators. We failed to notice and closed the hatch. The "Progress" left, but the obstacle remained on the "Mir" docking unit.

The importance of this operation was not restricted to eliminating an obstacle. We were the first cosmonauts to deal with an object as massive as the 20-tonne "Kvant"—it was still attached to the engine unit, which we later detached. We manually moved this unwieldy object to the maximum angle relative to the station. Specialists on earth inundated us with questions: What efforts did you make, how did the unit obey? All this will be useful in the future in assembling large orbital objects.

[Ivakhnov] But there was a moment when we in the flight control center were literally numb with fear. To this day I can hear A. Laveykin's alarmed voice: "Pressure is dropping.... My pressure is dropping!"

[Romanenko] As Sasha said later, his first thought was that his airtight glove had torn. And you know how that would inevitably have ended. It was very important that Sasha is quick to react verbally. Sasha was behind me. I jerked round and saw immediately that the handle of the pressure regulator had been turned to reduced pressure—he had pulled it up across the hatch when he began to make his way outside. I moved it to the correct position.... On the very next freight rocket from earth they sent us protective screens for this panel, and during our next outing we were protected from such unexpected occurrences.

This incident reminded us that in space you must always be on guard. When a test pilot goes on a mission, no one needs to be told how difficult and dangerous his work is. Yet each time we are going on a very complex test flight. A new ship is being tested, life support systems and human organisms are being tested....

[Ivakhnov] Was it not this stressful situation which led to A. Laveykin's return from the flight ahead of schedule?

[Romanenko] It is better to ask the doctors. But we later learned that at that alarming moment, Sasha's heart had an extra beat. That is a natural reaction of the organism to stress. I am sure that had it not been for the guest expedition, we would have completed the flight successfully. But since doubts had arisen and there was a possibility of replacing him.... I am very glad that after investigation and treatment, the doctors have pronounced him fit for further flights.

[Ivakhnov] But when A. Laveykin returned to earth, what did you feel at the thought that you would have to try for the record alone?

[Romanenko] You journalists like to wallow in sensations and experiences and come up with loud words: "a record, a record...." Everything was simpler. There is work which has to be done to the end. The main thing, as in a marathon run, is to pace yourself correctly.

There were difficulties on the moral plane before Sasha's departure. It seems to me that the doctors behaved wrongly at the flight control center—they were already discussing the question of replacing the flight engineer, but we knew nothing of it. And only a week before the visiting expedition arrived was he told to collect his things. If you had seen what Sasha went through.... "I didn't pass the test, how will it look in the detachment, I will never see space again." I had to have a friendly talk with him and prove to him that he was wrong.

[Ivakhnov] Can one become accustomed to space?

[Romanenko] Ask a pilot whether one can become accustomed to the sky.... I like everything in space. I am happy to know that it is my work, my profession. In space you can work fruitfully, loving it and conquering....

[Ivakhnov] Forgive me in advance for a tactless question... Long flights are not carried out for the sake of records. They are testing the feasibility of an expedition to Mars and in particular the potential of the human organism. During your research in orbit did you not have the feeling that you were a "guinea pig?"

[Romanenko] Experimental animals have flown in orbit and quite recently, but they were not guinea pigs but monkeys. And the commentators really had a field day: They called them "cosmonauts" and "heroes of space."

Probably the testers who did not rise from their inclined seats for a year—to simulate the organism's prolonged stay in space—felt like "guinea pigs." Of course they were heroes, those volunteers. But we have completely different tasks. Weightlessness is merely the background against which we control space technology, carry out installation work, and engage in research. Observing the processes taking place within us in space is only a small part of the vast flight program.

[Ivakhnov] Even doctors were surprised at how rapidly you found your feet after landing. What was the reason?

[Romanenko] There were two reasons: A good physical training program and its unconditional fulfillment. And on earth I tried to move about as much as possible to overcome the gravity which weighed on me. I will not hide the fact that to this day my shin and back muscles hurt—in a state of weightlessness they have less of a load to bear than other muscles, while on earth they have more.

[Ivakhnov] Is it possible to predict that a year's flight will end just as successfully?

[Romanenko] It is possible boldly to predict 6-month flights. Sufficient experience has already been accumulated here. As for a year's flight.... The newspapers have written that our flight was completed successfully. But what does "successfully" mean? Of the two crew members, one returned early, although he was not to blame. That means it was only a half-way success. I flew for nearly 11 months, but can we reckon on the organisms of V. Titov and M. Manarov behaving according to the same laws?

A space flight means stressful situations which cannot be anticipated, disruptions of the regime, even if they are enforced, and problems of compatibility in a tiny collective separated from earth, and sometimes an unrepaired ventilator which does not let you rest properly at night, and an inadequate level of comfort—you don't know what it means to spend over 300 nights in a sleeping bag....

...Yesterday the very spring-like rays of the sun melted the ice on the minor roads, but today my feet were getting stuck in the snow which had fallen overnight. Walking was difficult, but when he had said goodbye to me, Yuriy Viktorovich ran up the mountain path to catch up with his crew comrades who had set off for their exercises.

1-Year Space Missions Contemplated

LD021326 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet Union will continue to extend the duration of space missions on board the orbital complex Mir, says a leading space research official (Aleksandr Maksimov). Soviet gains in biology and medicine make it possible to contemplate 1-year long space missions with optimism, he said. The possibility of such expeditions has been confirmed by the 326-day space mission accomplished recently by Yuriy Romanenko. The cosmonaut is in good health and currently he is vacationing in the Caucasus.

Soviet Arctic Stratosphere Experiment Begins

PM031023 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 2 Feb 88 First Edition p 1

[Report by "Our Special Correspondent" N. Dombkovskiy under the "Anticipating the Event" rubric: "We Will Fly to the Pole; Unusual Arctic Experiment Begins Today"]

[Text] Sheremetyevo Airport—It would seem that our planet had been thoroughly studied and that it was virtually impossible to find new natural formations on it. But no, the surprises continue. Just recently scientists discovered unusual clouds the existence of which had not been suspected even by theorists. So far these clouds do not even have a name; they are simply called stratospheric clouds.

They exist at an altitude of about 20,000 m and are due to the atmosphere's ozone layer. Today the completeness of this layer is worrying everyone. Life on earth largely depends on its presence, and it blocks the sun's fatal ultra violet radiation.

Scientists from the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology Central Aerological Laboratory have developed an unusual experiment. They are planning to find stratospheric clouds with the aid of a unique laser device, the so-called lidar. Today an aircraft called the "Cyclone" carrying a large quantity of electronic apparatus is to fly from the capital's Sheremetyevo Airport to the Arctic. It will be taken on its long-distance flight by a crew from the State Scientific Research Institute of Civil Aviation headed by Honored Pilot of the USSR Boris Dmitriyevich Grubiy.

The flight's program provides for a study of the atmosphere in the region of the North Pole. The laser beam directed vertically upward will be able to sound out the atmosphere to the highest altitudes and the stratospheric clouds, if they have now formed, will be discovered without fail. According to preliminary data, they appear at the end of January and the beginning of February.

The aircraft commander and navigator, Aleksandr Lalykin, has already visited the Pole on many occasions. Last year during the Arctic trip of the nuclear-powered ship Sibir, they provided backup for an ice survey from on board a long-range reconnaissance aircraft. That is why it is they who have been appointed for these complex flights.

The crew also includes your correspondent. We will regularly publish reports from on board the Cyclone. The experiment program is scheduled to last 4 days.

Marchuk Discusses Scientific Progress

AU281604 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 26 Jan 88 p 4

[Article by Academician Guriy Marchuk, "president of the USSR Academy of Sciences": "A Key to Intensive Development"]

[Text] The production potential of the USSR is expected to double toward the end of the century, while the national income is also expected to approximately double. The industrial volume is expected to increase no less than two-fold. As a matter of fact, science, namely scientific-technical progress, is the key to the implementation of this task.

Soviet science has a leading worldwide position in several fields of mathematics, theoretical physics, chemical kinetics, optical sciences, radio physics, physics of solids, and astronomy. Everyone knows about our undeniable successes in space research, in analyzing the problems of thermonuclear synthesis, and in laser technology, as well as in organic chemistry, in creating new substances and alloys, in electrical welding, in certain areas of biochemistry, biophysics, and other fuels.

Nevertheless, we are already starting to lag behind in some most important areas of scientific-technical progress. The accumulated scientific reserves are not efficiently utilized, and sometimes foreign technical solutions are unjustifiably applied, despite the fact that more progressive Soviet developments exist in the same sector.

The basic reason for this situation is that we failed organically to integrate scientific-technical progress in all economic processes of our national economic sector. At a certain stage, the system of scientific-technical management and development proved ineffective. The process of development from the scientific idea to its implementation in serial production of technical innovations was intolerably delayed.

Contemporary requirements of Soviet science and of the system of scientific-technical development, generally speaking, make it necessary to create a solid reserve of scientific-technical knowledge and an organizational-economic situation likely to guarantee and stimulate the prompt implementation of scientific-technical innovations.

The restructuring of Soviet science affects both the essential and the organizational aspects of scientific work. The USSR Academy of Sciences has 17 departments engaged in different areas of research. Each of them attaches great importance to long-term planning in research, and 6 to 10 basic trends have been established on which long-term forecasts are determined. They are the basis for the development of research programs in priority scientific trends for the period up to 2000. Republican academic institutions and branch institutes, as well as higher educational institutions are participating in work on these programs together with the USSR Academy of Sciences. This is how these programs unite all Soviet scientific units in cooperation for the solution of common tasks.

The administration and organization of academic science will be greatly improved by eliminating unnecessary centralization, by expanding the rights and responsibilities of individual institutes by a democratization of life within scientific collectives. The Soviet Academy of Sciences today includes over 250 scientific institutions. Its task is to coordinate the activities of the republican and branch academies, as well as the entire fundamental scientific potential of the country. The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences is not obliged to assume the leadership of every single institute as was the case in the recent past. It can now devote all its attention to strategic tasks.

In exchange for this, the individual departments of the academy are called upon to play a new role—they are becoming both scientific as well as organizational centers with great prerogatives. They are entrusted with the adoption of 5-year plans and deal with the basic tasks included in the annual research plans of the institutes; they are in charge of organizing and coordinating the work of the institutes. The departments also deal with questions pertaining to changes in the specialization of scientific institutions and submit proposals for the organization of new scientific units, as well as for the re-organization, or elimination of existing structures. They also deal with cadre policy, and with the allocation of financial resources. The tasks of the departments also include the implementation of international scientific cooperation, among other things.

The work of the institutes themselves is also subject to substantial restructuring. Flexible organizational forms are extensively applied in their structure and their independence, and their responsibilities are increasing as well.

The creation of new technologies and of integrated technological systems today is possible only within the framework of strong scientific-production associations that should include research as well as designing and engineering units, experimental and serial production, and organizations for the practical application of our own innovations. The interbranch scientific-technical complexes, which are 22 in number, must conform to these requirements. Over 50 academic organizations are already participating in these associations.

One of the basic trends of restructuring in academic science pertains to the new cadre policy. This policy aims at recruiting an increasing number of talented, young people for the scientific sector. An age limit has been introduced for promotion to leading scientific-organizational positions, and new regulations have been introduced for the election of directors of institutes and for

the appointment of young and capable specialists to vacant positions. A rule was adopted on recruiting young cadres for academic institutions at an annual rate of 5 percent.

The decisions adopted in our country for the re-organization of the economic mechanism, for the transition to full economic accountability, self-support, and self-financing, permit enterprises to make profits only if they rely upon scientific-technical progress. This is how the necessary prerequisites for closer links between the scientific-technical potential and production can be created.

Zaykov, Other Leaders Attend Scientific Congress

LD020947 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0710 GMT 2 Feb 88

[From the"Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The Seventh All-Union Congress of Scientific and Technical Societies has just opened in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow. There are about 13 million people in scientific and technical societies in our country: scientists, engineers, technicians, economists, specialists in the agro-industrial complex, front-ranking workers, and kolkhoz workers. Every year, scientific and technical society organizations draw up and hand over for use to the state economic organs about 2 million suggestions and recommendations. Many of these have been included in the plans of branches of the national economy.

[Begin recording of unidentified session chairman] Who is against? Any abstentions? Then the congress presidium is elected unanimously. [applause] [video shows delegates holding up cards to vote; no one appears to vote against or abstain.] [end recording]

[Announcer] Comrades Zaykov, Slyunkov, Dolgikh and Razumovskiy are taking part in the work of the congress. [video shows Razumovskiy, Dolgikh, Slyunkov, and Zaykov sitting from left to right in the center of an otherwise empty platform with unidentified chairman at the rostrum]

The congress is to answer this main question: How, at the present stage of restructuring, can the great potential of the scientific and technical societies be turned into a real factor for acceleration? It is also to define prospects for further development and, of course, to map out a program of action.